FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL
Middle East & North Africa
Vol V No 45 7 March 1978

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Dec. 858-8-6 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-45

MAR 1 6 1978

FBIS-MEA-78-45
Tuesday
7 March 1978
Vol V No 45

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED

ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

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QADDUMI DENIES PLO MOVE TO GET U.S. RECOGNITION

JN061832Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has categorically denied that the PLO has asked the Arab League to send a ministerial delegation to the United States to seek recognition of the PLO. In commenting on this, Abu al-Lutf said: The PLO cannot make such a demand, especially at this time when the United States is making desperate attempts to strike at the steadfast Arab stand and is adopting a hostile stand toward our Palestinian people, challenging their will and trying to bypass their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Abu al-Lutf explained that 5 months ago, following the U.S. retreat from its stand as expressed in the USSR-U.S. joint statement, the PLO demanded that the Arab states adopt a hard stand toward the United States, denounce its policy of total hostility against the PLO and condemn its continued support for Israel.

Abu al-Lutf added: This is what our stand was and still is. The reported new request made by the PLO is completely untrue.

'ARAFAT, DELEGATION DUE IN MOSCOW ON 6 MARCH

JN061634Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union today at the head of a high-level Palestinian delegation. The visit comes at the invitation of senior Soviet leaders.

The Palestinian delegation accompanying brother Abu 'Ammar is made up of brothers Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; Zuhayr Muhsin, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Talal Naji, all member of the PLO Executive Committee; and brother (Fayiq Warrad).

The radio correspondent has learned that the Palestinian delegation's talks with the Soviet leaders will deal with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the current events in the Arab region and their possible future developments.

Qaddumi Comments on Visit

JN061816Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has made a statement to the correspondent of the Palestinian news agency on the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow in which he said:

The visit of the PLO delegation to the friendly and allied Soviet Union at this time is of definite importance because President as-Sadat is now facing the failure of what he calls his peace initiative. His insistence on pursuing his initiative is leading him to a further fall into the lap of the United States. Also at this time the steadfastness and confrontation front is increasing its moves in all directions so as to confront President as-Sadat's initiative and stop the present deterioration in the Arab situation as a result of his initiative.

Several officials and leaders from the states of steadfastness have visited the Soviet Union and held talks with its leaders. It has become necessary for us to pay this visit to the Soviet Union in order to confer with the Soviet leaders on all issues and subjects related to the steadfastness and confrontation front. The visit is also aimed at consolidating the steadfast Palestinian stand, supporting the PLO in all spheres and exchanging viewpoints regarding the latest developments in the region, especially since the United States has revealed through its hostile policy toward the Arab peoples its conspiratorial aims, which are intended to disrupt the Arab stand and which seek to conclude separate agreements and suspicious bargains in the interests of Israel. The United States is doing this at a time when it is reinforcing Israel's offensive and expansionist capabilities by supplying it with the most modern destructive weapons.

The United States is also carrying out its plans in support of Israel in an attempt to bring the Arab nation to its knees through a return to the shuttle step-by-step policy. It has been decisively proved that some of the goals of such a policy are bringing struggle closer to the area, splitting Arab steadfastness and striking at Arab-Soviet friendship.

At this time when we are visiting the Soviet Union, our friend and ally, we stress that we greatly value the firm stands of the Soviet Union in supporting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their national independent state.

Comment by Qatari Paper

NC060922Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 6 March--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today quotes knowledgeable Palestinian sources as saying that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, during his meetings with the Soviet leaders, will demand that they adopt practical steps to foil current U.S. political moves in the Middle East. These sources affirmed to the paper that 'Arafat is not carrying to Moscow a list of weapons he needs because Moscow has pledged to support the Palestinian resistance and to provide it with the various weapons which it wants, including sophisticated ground-to-ground missiles and new shells for portable RPG guns.

These sources explained that 'Arafat will also discuss with the Soviet leaders developments in southern Lebanon and the official Soviet position on any widespread Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory. AL-'ARAB also notes that 'Arafat, after his visit to Moscow, may visit a number of East European countries to discuss with their leaders the latest (?developments) in the Arab-Zionist conflict.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN021547Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this morning received Algerian Ambassador in Beirut Mohamed Yazid. The radio correspondent has learned that during the meeting talks were held on developments in the current situation in the region. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut from Damascus late last night following his meeting with the GDR delegation, Fatah cadres and the popular organizations.

ABU MAYZAR COMMENTS ON JORDAN'S JOINING TALKS

NC041022Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 4 March--PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has stated that Jordan's participation in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations means blocking the way to any meeting between the organization and Jordan.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, Abu Mayzar says that the situation in Lebanon is explosive. He expresses the belief that what has happened in Lebanon recently marks the beginning of pressure being applied on Syria and the Palestinian resistance.

He stresses that the Palestinian revolution rejects any substitute homeland for Palestine. He says that the Syrian-Palestinian relations are currently returning to normal.

AL-FAHUM ASSAILS AIMS OF U.S. SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY

JN041340Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, has stressed that Atherton's shuttle tour is an exposed U.S. attempt to delude public opinion that the United States is continuing its peace efforts to achieve what is called a declaration of principles agreed upon by Israel and Egypt. It will include obscure wordings and at its very best will not be on a par with Security Council Resolution 242.

In an exclusive interview to the AR-RAYYAH magazine published today [origin of magazine not specified], Al-Fahum added that the United States believes that with this suspect declaration it will save As-Sadat's face, who will pretend that he has obtained something to cushion the immense resentment against him.

VOP Commentary

JN042038Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Arab and world propaganda organs have overwhelmed us with the news of a big political star that has shone in the sky of the Arab region for the last few months. This star is Alfred Atherton, special U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

If we try to [word indistinct] the details of Atherton's moves, as is broadcast and published about them, we find that they take various forms, such as carrying letters between As-Sadat and Begin, or delivering exchanged proposals on the so-called project of a declaration of principles concerning a Middle East settlement. In addition to this, there is another mission which may seem outside this framework, such as the attempts aimed at persuading King Husayn to join the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and thus give these negotiations a new support and [word indistinct] As-Sadat, Atherton and Begin [word indistinct] of work toward arriving at a separate Egyptian-Israeli solution.

Through our followup of Atherton's travels, of what has been published about it as well as of the results these travels have achieved so far, we have arrived at an assessment of some novelty, namely, Mr Atherton is performing an interesting operation to which the well-known popular saying [words indistinct] applies very well.

This is because Atherton, who moves with U.S. power and finances, still insists on dealing with the important, delicate and complicated Middle East issue using old methods whose inappropriateness for solving this problem have been proved. Moreover, his shuttle style of movement does not make people believe that the man really wants to find a final peaceful settlement to the most intricate problem in contemporary history.

Regarding Atherton's methods of finding a solution, it can be said that these methods are not objective at all. Besides, they carry deep hostility against the peoples of the Arab region as well as against their just aspirations. The United States wants a final settlement for the Middle East issue that does not take into consideration the basic facts which the world has agreed to be the facts of peace in the region. These facts can be defined as follows:

1. Total Zionist withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967;

2. The restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination on their national soil and the establishment of their national independent state.

If the U.S. moves and the Middle East process of finding a solution ignore these substantial and recognized facts, the only result with which Atherton will come out of his ostentatious shuttle tour will be more detours and evasions, as others have done before him.

BAGHDAD VOP OPPOSES PLO-JORDANIAN RECONCILIATION

JN032039Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The signs of the resumption of the steps of reconciliation between the PLO leadership and the monarchy in Amman are very much in evidence. Before defining the position of these steps in the settlement movement, we will see whether there is a national justification for this reconciliation. The PLO leadership, along with the settlement forces, will offer many justifications. However, none of these will be a national justification. It will not be acceptable to the masses of September [referring to the civil war in Jordan in September 1970] or the nation's masses. Before giving the reasons let us look into the nature of the reconciliation.

The PLO leadership is now deeply involved in the settlement issue. First, it depends to a large extent on its ally the Syrian regime, because the Syrian regime is adhering to the slogan that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and, at the same time, is working to deepen the contradictions within the PLO ranks. The Syrian regime uses Salah Khalaf and Nayif Hawatimah to control the movements of Yasir 'Arafat and then sends the gangs of As-Sa'iqah and Ahmad Jibril in every direction, even at the expense of PLO relations with certain reactionary oil regimes. Second, PLO relations with the As-Sadat regime are passing through a critical period since the Cyprus incidents. They blame each other and even blackmail each other. Third, the imperialists and the Zionist enemy are still refusing to recognize the role of the PLO leadership in the settlement and favor the role of the monarchy in Amman.

This is commensurate with the reactionary role played by the Jordanian monarchy, which aims at liquidating the differences among the Arab reactionaries in order to support the stand and the methods of the Egyptian regime and to exploit the practical results of the efforts exerted by the national and steadfast Arabs in the interest of the reactionary Arab alliance known as Arab solidarity. Therefore, the steps of reconciliation between the Jordanian monarchy and the PLO leadership are a bridge and a prelude to reconciling the regimes in Damascus and Cairo. The Jordanian regime stands to gain from this reconciliation on more than one count: The regime, for example, will seem in the eyes of the Arabs to be a regime which is desirous of closing Arab ranks in order to face the Zionist intransigence. The regime will exploit this in neutralizing the wrath of the Jordanian masses, who are opposed to the terrorism of the monarchy, regarding the aggravating economic crisis and the spread of corruption, exploitation and monopoly. This reconciliation will also give the monarchy many justifications for obtaining aid money from the reactionary oil regimes. It will further enable the monarchy to continue in the footsteps of As-Sadat to negotiate with the enemy under an official Palestinian cover and with official Palestinian participation. With the participation of the PLO leadership, the monarchy will have performed a great service for the imperialists through weakening the differences and creating a suitable background to solve the differences among the regimes and the forces of the settlement. In order to avoid the popular anger or at least to reduce it, the Jordanian regime has offered the PLO leadership a fragile concession; namely, the release of a number of strugglers from Jordanian prisons. Despite the fact that this release will exclude hundreds of detainees, it is not binding on the Jordanian authorities. The Jordanian regime has often resorted to such tactics, only to return the prisoners to their dark dungeons.

Hence, the danger of the reconciliation between the PLO leadership and the Jordanian monarchy stems from the fact that this reconciliation is a cover for continuing the steps of the As-Sadat regime on the path of the political settlement. Because our masses and revolutionaries oppose this settlement in all its forms and regardless of its origin, they can only denounce such a reconciliation. The Jordanian regime, as an agent of imperialism, is strongly opposed to the armed struggle path and has already committed murders in September and among the forests [in Jarash district in Jordan] and also in Lebanon. These murders cannot be erased from our memories. If the PLO leadership insists on bypassing this fact in the hope of taking part in the settlement, as it previously did during its compromises, it will thus stab in the back the people who made history in September and during the battle of Al-Karamahm. The only alternative to this reconciliation is solidarity with these masses in order to create the unified Arab front which is able to confront the monarchy in Jordan as part of confronting the settlement regime. This will protect the path of armed struggle and will guaratnee that it continues until victory.

QATARI OIL MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO KUWAITI PAPER

NC040953Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 March--Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has stressed that it is important that the OPEC finance and oil ministers meet to discuss the continued fall in the value of the dollar and to better assess the situation because "the continued fall constitutes a serious threat to the national oil revenues."

He said he believes that if the fall in the value of the dollar continues to the point of endangering the oil royalties, then the OPEC states must automatically use the special drawing rights or the "OPEC dollar."

The minister pointed out that the dollar is the strongest currency there is and the better currency to deal in, "but we must not be the victims if the dollar continues to drop in value." In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH published today, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani said that politics do not play a role in this matter and that it is merely a shift from one economic situation to another. He said that the decision made at the recent Caracas conference to freeze the oil prices was prompted by the desire to give a boost to the north-south dialog because the success of this dialog would have good effects on the prices of manufactured goods and raw materials and this would in turn create a better international economic situation.

His excellency dismissed the argument that the importing states have enough oil reserves to be able to put pressure on OPEC to freeze prices. He said that the question of prices is linked to economic factors and to world inflation. We adopt our decisions in this connection, he said, in the light of the recommendations of specialized economic committees.

Answering a question regarding the idea of holding a conference of finance and oil ministers of the gulf states for consultation, he said that at present there is no such idea. I believe, however, he said, that such a meeting will become necessary if the dollar continues to drop, as it is now doing. There will also be a need for an OPEC meeting to discuss the matter and make a better assessment of the situation because such a situation would pose a serious threat to the oil royalties and must therefore be dealt with.

PLO SEEKS TO INCLUDE SAUDIS, OTHERS IN ACTION PLAN

LD021345Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Ahmed Fattani report on interview in Damascus with Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum: "We Want Arab Countries Which Did Not Support As-Sadat To Join Steadfastness Front"--date not given]

[Text] The PLO Central Council, which met in Damascus recently to study the latest developments in the political situation, also had to examine the decisions and policies adopted in Tripoli and Algiers over the last 3 months. Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum has spoken in an interview with our special correspondent in Damascus about the next steps which the Palestinian resistance is preparing to take.

"We have determined," Khalid al-Fahum said, "the steps required for implementing the decision made at the two latest steadfastness front summits. This implementation will--it is true--require increased effort and action on the part of the PLO. Second, there is the matter of inter-Palestinian relations and the relations existing among the movements constituting the resistance on the basis of the Palestinian document adopted in Tripoli and confirmed very recently in Algiers. This document defines the relations among the various Palestinian resistance movements within the framework of the PLO."

"Third, there is the coming meeting of the Palestinian National Council, for which we must prepare.

"This very important matter requires a number of contacts and consultations among the Palestinian movements and their respective leaderships. Settling a venue for the Palestine National Council meeting was one of the topics discussed at the PLO Central Council meeting. Previously--that is, until 1967--we experienced no problems about the venue for Palestine National Council meetings, it being agreed that we met in Al-Quds, or else in Gaza--that is, on Palestinian territory. Since then, we have been in the habit of meeting at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, since that organization, of which the PLO is a full member, comprises of all Arabs. However, it is now impossible to hold our meetings in Cairo, because of As-Sadat's initiative. It is inconceivable for the Palestinians to go to Cairo while the Israelis are still there and taking part in the negotiations with Egypt."

The Palestine National Council chairman talked next about the drafting of an action plan for the PLO with respect to the Arab countries.

"We must coordinate our activity," Mr al-Fahum said, "with that of the Arab countries belonging to the steadfastness front. Consultations will be initiated with the Arab countries which have not yet joined that front. Those countries have considerable means and we want them to remain our allies, especially Saudi Arabia and the gulf countries."

'We also want this action plan to include Iraq, to persuade it to join the front. It was agreed in Algiers to send a four-party delegation, composed of South Yemen, Algeria, Libya and the PLO, to Baghdad. This action plan would also involve the other friendly countries in the world--the USSR and the countries of West Europe and Africa."

With respect to the unification of the Palestinian movements, Khalid al-Fahum stated essentially:

Following the Tripoli charter proclaiming unification, I can say that there could be no cause capable of creating a dispute.

The Palestine National Council chairman believes that "the major responsibility for the lack of unification within the Palestinian movements rests with certain Arab leaders. We hope that these same Arab leaders will support this unification and go beyond the stage of supporting Palestinian movements or small groups which uphold their political ideas."

"Although our relations with Syria were somewhat clouded at one point, they are nevertheless sound and certainly organic relations. And that is why, moreover, the Algiers summit centered its work on Syrian-Palestinian relations."

ARAB ARMS ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR LONDON

NC041803Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 March--The chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Organization for Industrialization, Dr Ashraf Marwan, left Cairo for London today on a visit of several days to Britain.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CONDEMNS CARTER'S DOLLAR POLICY

LD0617Z54Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Mar 78 pp 1, 15 LD

[Editorial: "Carter and American Opportunism"]

[Text] The U.S. President has unequivocally stated that the drop in the dollar rate was a planned U.S. policy. He affirmed that this drop has helped to secure balanced prices for oil imports, led to renewed strength for U.S. trade in the face of competition from other industrial states and, moreover, absorbed large amounts in the investment sectors.

The U.S. President's statement once again reveals the lack of ethics in U.S. policy and confirms its opportunism toward everybody, including its allies.

Furthermore, this shows that the peanut farmer who presented himself to the world in an idealistic light, raised the slogan of human rights and underlined morality in political work has been unable--if, indeed, he so wished--to depart from the fixed policy of American opportunism which justifies itself by the well-known American philosophy of "pragmatism"; that is, practical realism, which essentially means stripping international or human relationships of morality, humanism and compassion.

The U.S. President's statement falls within this framework, but it also exposes in a tragic manner how cheap values become when they are exploited by major powers.

Although Kuwait and other oil countries have voiced protests because of the deterioration of the dollar and its impact, similar protests, but in a subdued voice, have been made by others, particularly Germany and Japan and by other industrial states which also have been affected by the U.S. dollar war.

Therefore, the action by the oil countries which Kuwait called for should simultaneously be accompanied by European action in order to achieve more rapid results and to bring to a halt this U.S. economic war against the whole world.

Undoubtedly the quiet European-Japanese protest is being heard only too well in Washington. It is probably for this reason that there is now talk about the revival of the dollar before the oil countries and the Eurpean countries have a chance to join hands in joint confrontation with the dollar in order to topple its leadership in favor of another currency.

In any case, this does not mean that Washington has decided to bring its plans to an end. Therefore, such joint action, which in the final analysis is of interest to Europe as much as it is to the oil countries, is absolutely necessary. This is because, as Carter indicated, the Americans would like oil investments to move from Europe to the United States as one of the results of the drop in the dollar value abroad. In other words those making investments, including oil investments, will be compelled to look for greater security and effectiveness. Therefore, in view of the drop in the dollar rate abroad, investors will have no choice other than going to the American interior. Thus U.S. trade and industry will grow at the expense of the growth and progress of the oil countries as well as the European countries.

But this American game involves great risks, most important of which is undermining political stability in the European countries, driving these countries toward disturbances and strengthening radical and leftist trends. Thus it becomes clear that for the sake of its own interests the United States gives no consideration to the interest of others, even if they were its allies. So let us understand this.

REDUCTION IN HEAVY OIL PRICE REPORTED IN AL-KHAFAJI

NC070830Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0758 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March--The Kuwaiti Newspaper AS-SIYASAH today quotes Japanese oil sources as saying that Kuwait has agreed to reduce by 7 cents a barrel the price of its heavy oil in the joint Kuwaiti-Saudi area of Al-Khafaji in order to make it equal to the price for heavy Saudi oil in the same area, which is $12.03 a barrel. Quoting the same sources, the paper says that the Arab-Japanese oil company operating in the area has been notified of the decision, which will be applied retroactively as of 1 January 1978. This will bring to an end the crisis of the two-tier price system being used by the company in that area.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM

NC061321Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 6 March--Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has denied that Qatar had been granted or has asked for any financial loans from certain international establishments or sides. He said that Qatar's financial, economic and investment balance is good thanks to the wise policy which Qatar has been following under the leadership of Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The Qatari minister again denied that Qatar is following an austerity policy, saying that such a report is untrue and exaggerated. He affirmed that the new general budget is higher in order to meet the demands of the state and its projects.

In an exclusive interview published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, the Minister affirmed the importance of the common gulf market, adding that it is one of the most important matters and the Arab Gulf countries must study it immediately and work to implement it in order to serve the interests of the area and guarantee its stability and prosperity. His excellency expressed optimism over OPEC's present and future saying that OPEC is now stronger than in the past despite the fact that there are many people who had wagered that it would fail and split up through differences. His excellency said that the 13 OPEC states have lost a total of $14 billion as a result of the drop in the value of the dollar. He urged these states to issue and adopt an OPEC dollar in order to stop the losses being incurred by the drop in the value of the U.S. dollar.

On the use of the Arab oil as a weapon, the Qatari finance and oil minister said: We do not hesitate to say that we will never spare this weapon in supporting the rights of the Palestinian Arab people in cooperation with our other brothers in the Arab oil states.

SAUDI ARABIA

OFFICIAL: AL-GHAWAR OIL PRODUCTION NOT SUSPENDED

NC070920Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0827 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 7 March--'Abd al-'Aziz At-Turki, under secretary in the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs, has denied that a decision has been issued to halt production in the Al-Ghawar oilfield on which ARAMCO relies for its production. He said that if these rumors were true, the rate of Saudi Arabia's production would have declined sharply since the Al-Ghawar oilfield is considered one of the largest fields in the world and is currently producing near maximum capacity.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, At-Turki stressed that nothing has happened to affect production from the kingdom's oilfields. He said that the rumors spread by some foreign circles that large quantities of water have seeped through to the oil wells, thus affecting their production, are not true. At-Turki concluded his statement by emphasizing that the oil policy of the kingdom is to insure that production standards are in accordance with the most up-to-date standards recognized in the oil industry.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI GRANTS INTERVIEW TO EGYPTIAN PAPER

NC031204Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 March--The chairman of the YAR Command Council, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, has affirmed that the idea of convening an Arab conference still exists, but it will be convened when the circumstances for its convocation and success are appropriate.

In an interview published in today's issue of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi said that the main aim which we must continuously strive for is to consolidate the foundations of Arab solidarity and dispel the differences which have clouded the Arab sky in order to attain unity of Arab ranks and will in face of the various challenges we are facing.

He added: We have expressed concern over what is happening in the Arab arena and have held intensive contacts with all the Arab brothers in order to check the aggravation of the situation and seek to return things to normal. The latest of these contacts has been the YAR foreign minister's tour of a number of Arab capitals in order to consult, coordinate and explain our views on the removal of differences between brothers and the consolidation of their solidarity and unity. Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi said that we believe that the Red Sea should remain a lake of peace, calm, stability and harmony. Furthermore, this important waterway should always remain far removed from all foreign strife and intervention. A spirit of understanding and cooperation should also prevail in the Red Sea littoral countries, particularly in the economic field. This would insure the most ideal exploitation of its resources and generate momentum for the development and progress of the peoples of the region.

He added: It is from this viewpoint that our policy is steered toward curbing all the factors of conflict and creating a state of understanding and fruitful cooperation among the Red Sea states in order to preserve their national interests by means of continuous coordination and consultations among them.

Concerning the work of the committees for the unification of the two parts of Yemen, Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi said that the Yemeni people are united by nature, history and reality. He said that even though their homeland has been exposed to agony and division throughout history, the unity of the people exists; it is firm and deeply rooted in their hearts. He added: The question of restoring the natural unity of our homeland takes up a great deal of our attention and is one of the major and important goals which we are trying to attain with all our efforts and sincerity in both parts of the homeland.

The chairman of the YAR Command Council added: Many specialized committees have been set up to work for the restoration of unity. These committees are continuing to carry out their tasks and the results they are attaining are being submitted to the commands of both parts of the country for assessment and approval. He said: We are continuously following the activities and work of these committees and we are also devoting attention to providing everything tending to push their work forward. Important steps have also been taken on the path of unity in the various domains in a manner which gives rise to hope and satisfaction.

Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi concluded his statement by discussing the role of the Constituent People's Assembly. He said: In establishing the Constituent People's Assembly, one of our goals was to expand the base of popular participation in shouldering the burdens, tasks and responsibilities of governing the country so that the people will follow the right path of preventing reliance on autocratic rule and seriously turning toward exercising democracy in the country.

The establishment of the council will definitely bolster national unity among all our people from all walks of life so that they will all forge ahead together toward achieving the desired development and advancement.

BRIEFS

TRADE MINISTER IN SYRIA--This afternoon Mahmud Sa'id Mahdi, minister of trade and supply, arrived in Damascus leading a PDRY delegation to Syria. The purpose of his visit is to strengthen trade relations between Syria and the PDRY. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD/EA]

AGRICULTURE MINISTER IN QATAR--Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, left Aden today for Qatar to attend the third conference of the ministers of agriculture of the gulf and peninsula states, which will meet in Doha from 6 to 9 March. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD/EA]

PDRY OFFICIAL TO TRIPOLI--Salih Munassar (as-Suhayli), secretary of the Mass Organizations Department of the Central Committee, left Aden today for the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to attend the meeting of the general secretariat of the Arab peoples conference which will take place in Tripoli from the 7th to the 9th of this month. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD/EA]

ATHERTON CONTINUES SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IN EGYPT

Kamil Meets With Atherton

NC061513Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met this afternoon with U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and on the U.S. side by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

Mr Atherton stated after the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, that he will meet with President Anwar as-Sadat at 1800 today. He said that he will leave Cairo this evening for Tel Aviv. The U.S. ambassador said that Atherton will make a statement on his mission after his meeting with President as-Sadat.

As-Sadat Meets With Atherton

NC061856Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton at 1800 today. The meeting lasted until 1930. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Michael Sterner.

In a statement to newsmen following the meeting, Atherton said: I wish to express my great gratitude to President as-Sadat for receiving me this time. I conveyed to his excellency a message from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in reply to the message he had received from President as-Sadat. During this meeting and my earlier meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister, I had the opportunity to brief the president on the outcome of my talks in Israel and the talks I held during my visit to Jordan.

Atherton added: This is the last stage of my mission. I will return to Washington in a few days to help in the preparation for the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington. I believe that the 2 weeks I have spent here holding talks have been very useful.

Atherton said: I believe we have succeeded in narrowing the differences on the declaration of principles for a Middle East settlement. He added: We have also established one fact, which is that the negotiating process will continue and must continue in order to insure its continuity. I look forward to returning to the area, after the conclusion of Begin's visit, to continue the process.

Asked whether any of the two sides has come closer to agreeing to the declaration of principles, Atherton said: I was very successful and to a great extent in not confining the negotiations to the question of the declaration of principles. I will simply stick to what I said a few minutes ago that we have succeeded in narrowing the differences on some aspects regarding this declaration.

Asked whether he obtained Egypt's reply to the Israeli proposals, Atherton said: We discussed this reply in general and we will continue to discuss it. I do not intend to describe every step we make while we are forging ahead. I reaffirm that the important thing is to continue the process. The exchange of views regarding the declaration of principles is continuing.

Asked whether President as-Sadat has given him any personal or specific message for President Carter, Atherton said: I believe it is not proper to comment on anything relating to the contacts between the two presidents. Hence, I believe I will not comment on this subject.

Asked whether he can define President as-Sadat's reaction to the information he had brought him, Atherton said: President as-Sadat expressed appreciation for my being able to come and present these reports to him. He said that I will be welcome at any time I want to return and resume my mission.

Asked whether President as-Sadat's response encourages him, he said: Yes, it encourages me to continue my efforts.

Atherton said he will leave Cairo tonight in order to get the necessary instructions from the secretary of state and the U.S. President.

Speaking to newsmen, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: The last time Atherton was here, President as-Sadat asked him to convey a message to the Israeli prime minister. Today he conveyed to President as-Sadat a reply to his message. He will examine this reply to see what to do on the basis of its contents.

Asked about the positive points in this message, the Egyptian minister said: It is still under study. I have not studied it yet. Asked if the message contains any kind of proposals or advanced steps to be taken by the Israelis, the Egyptian minister said: I cannot say anything about this subject. We will study the message.

Asked whether this means that Begin's message and the Israeli proposals are being studied now, Foreign Minister Kamil said: Of course, we are studying everything. Asked whether there will be a reply to this message, Kamil said: We will first study it and then we will see--why not?

Asked about the reason for Atherton's not returning to Israel tonight, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I do not know, but his program is to return to Israel. I believe he has some scheduled meetings with the prime minister and with Dayan.

Asked whether Atherton will convey anything to the Israelis, Foreign Minister Kamil said: We now have Mr Begin's message, which we will study. When we do this, we might send something to him.

Asked whether this will be done via the U.S. Embassy, Foreign Minister Kamil said: If there is anything we can do it immediately. We can send it through Ambassador Atherton or through the U.S. Embassy.

Asked whether Egypt will now just wait and see what will happen when Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin visits Washington next week, Foreign Minister Kamil said: What is taking place is a complete process. Atherton's visit to the area is part of this process. Menahem Begin's visit to the United States is another part of this process.

Asked whether Egypt still looks to the United States and hopes the U.S. formula will help in overcoming the failure, Foreign Minister Kamil said: What we look forward to is for the United States to play its role in bringing the parties to a permanent peace together, as President as-Sadat has previously indicated, in its capacity as a full partner.

The journalist who was asking the foreign minister questions also asked: Will this be through the means contained in a U.S. formula?

The Egyptian foreign minister said: Well, through the means of U.S. mediation.

U.S. Officials' Comments

NC061915Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--U.S. officials accompanying U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton said today that Atherton's current peace mission has made some progress in regard to the nature of peace and Israeli withdrawal, but no progress has been made concerning the Palestinian issue. Atherton's shuttle mission will end in Jerusalem tomorrow. He will leave Jerusalem for Washington after 2 days to be on hand during Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's arrival in the U.S. capital, where he will hold talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The U.S. officials said that the Palestinian issue is the most difficult part of Atherton's mission. They added that this subject has been discussed in principle. The U.S. officials said that Carter's talks with Begin will deal with this issue.

The U.S. officials accompanying Atherton said that Atherton's talks are being conducted within the framework of the Aswan declaration made by President Carter after his meeting with President as-Sadat and that the goal is to help Egypt and Israel arrive at a declaration of principles for an overall and final Middle East settlement.

The U.S. officials added that the U.S. position throughout the negotiations has been based on UN Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for an Israeli withdrawal on all the fronts and for secure and recognized borders.

Referring to the question of the settlements, these officials said that the U.S. position on the question of the Jewish settlements is well known. They stressed that the United States has no conception of the peaceful settlement and that it can only submit ideas when there is a deadlock between the two sides such as at the time when the two sides failed to agree on an agenda for the Political Committee.

The U.S. officials asserted that there has been an eagerness to maintain the momentum during the negotiations, that both Egypt and Israel have expressed their support for this and that the talks have resulted in some changes in the attitude.

The sources [presumably meaning the U.S. officials] said that the declaration of principles should not be an end in itself and that it should merely form the basis of a comprehensive and final Middle East settlement.

Declaration of Principles

NC062132Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--MENA has learned that Egypt has reaffirmed to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton its firm stand concerning the declaration of principles. This stand is based on President Anwar as-Sadat's speech in Jerusalem and the six points he announced at the People's Assembly session and at the National Press Club news conference in Washington, particularly with regard to the total withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied on 5 June 1967, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and Egypt's rejection of the settlements since they constitute an indirect military presence and an obstacle to peace. Egypt also affirmed the right of all the peoples of the area to live in peace within secure borders.

AL-AHRAM Cites U.S. Source

NC070815Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--An official U.S. source who participated in the Egyptian-U.S. talks has made a statement on the situation reached during Atherton's recent talks in the area aimed at achieving a declaration on the basis of a comprehensive settlement. He said:

1. Agreement has been reached on some points of the declaration. Some differences have been ironed out but the Palestinian issue is still the basic point of dispute between the two sides.

2. Israel's stand on settlements has not changed, although there has been some limited change represented by restrictions that have begun to be imposed on the establishment of settlements.

3. As for withdrawal, this matter has not been completely resolved, although it is possible to narrow the gap of differences.

4. So far there is not yet any sign that the work of the Political and Military committees will be resumed.

AL-AHRAM says that when the U.S. official source was asked whether any pressure is being exerted on Israel, he replied: "Pressure" is not a diplomatic word. We are playing a role in which we are trying to bring views closer. Sometimes we offer views. We do not hesitate to present a stand to move toward joint agreement.

On Begin's visit to Washington, the U.S. source said: We hope the visit will be an important step toward the adoption of difficult decisions in the coming weeks. He added: We have made no specific proposals with regard to a peace agreement but we have adopted specific stands with regard to the agreement.

The source denied that arrangements are being made for President as-Sadat to visit Washington to meet with Begin. The source said that Atherton had conveyed Begin's reply to President as-Sadat's recent message and that during his last visit he communicated to Egypt the Israeli proposals. These proposals are still being discussed by President as-Sadat and his foreign minister. The source explained that Atherton's current mission did not deal with the question of the aircraft sales or military cooperation.

Further Details

NC070816Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--A U.S. official source who participated in the Egyptian-U.S. talks has made statements which the newspaper AL-AHRAM publishes today and in which he defines the U.S. stand as follows:

The United States emphasizes its previous position with regard to the interpretation of Resolution 242. The resolution means Israeli withdrawal on all fronts--Sinai, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza.

Regarding Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the U.S. stand is clear and firm. This stand is permanent and will continue to be so.

With regard to the Palestinian issue, the United States believes that it must be solved in all its aspects with the participation of the Palestinians in determining their future according to the Aswan declaration.

EGYPTIAN, SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN CAIRO

NC061632Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met today with Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre, who is now visiting Egypt. It was learned that the discussion centered on various international topics, particularly the current situation in the Horn of Africa, the war now raging between Somalia and Ethiopia and recent developments in the Middle East situation. The Somali foreign minister arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday on a 2-day visit.

As-Sadat Receives Minister

NC062017Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2014 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Barre, who is currently on a visit to Cairo. The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

AS-SADAT INAUGURATES AL-JIZAH FOOD PROJECTS

NC071102 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1050 GMT on 7 March links up with the other Cairo frequencies to relay live a ceremony from an agrarian reform villages in Al-Jizah Governorate, where President as-Sadat will inaugurate a number of food security projects and distribute title deeds for reclaimed land. According to the announcer, the helicopter bringing As-Sadat landed at 1056 GMT. He is accompanied by Vice President Mubarak, Prime Minister Salim, the Al-Jizah governor and some ministers.

After announcing As-Sadat's arrival for the ceremony at 1056 GMT, the announcer goes on to note that a number of officials are discussing various food security projects with President as-Sadat. At 1126 the announcer says that President as-Sadat has taken his place and the ceremony begins.

The governor of Al-Jizah begins to speak at 1127 GMT, welcoming As-Sadat and praising his efforts for the implementation of food security projects and the reclamation of the desert. His address ends at 1133 GMT.

The irrigation minister begins to speak at 1134 GMT. He speaks about reclamation projects, increased food production, the transfer of land ownership and irrigation. He says that all these projects have been implemented in accordance with President as-Sadat's directives. He speaks about proposed projects for the reclamation of the land east and west of the Nile delta and in other areas. At 1145 GMT the announcer reports that As-Sadat begins to distribute title deeds to representatives of agricultural cooperatives.

At 1147 GMT President as-Sadat begins a tour of a number of projects that have been completed. The relay ends at 1148 GMT and broadcasting is resumed from the Cairo studio.

AS-SADAT APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL FOR AAPSO

NC070533Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2322 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 March--President Anwar as-Sadat--in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Socialist Union--has issued a decision appointing 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi as secretary general of AAPSO to succeed martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i, who was assassinated by two Palestinian terrorists in Nicosia on 18 February. It should be recalled that AAPSO's constitution gives the headquarters country, Egypt, the right to appoint the secretary general of the organization.

The appointment of 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi, who has been working in the field of Afro-Asian solidarity from the beginning, has been met with welcome and complete support from the delegates of all the AAPSO member states.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM PEKING, MAKES STATEMENT

NC070941Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 7 March--Industry, Petroleum and Mining Minister Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal returned to Cairo from Peking this morning after a 10-day visit to China. Engineer Hilal said on his arrival that Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng, with whom he met during his visit, had asked him to communicate to President Anwar as-Sadat the Chinese leadership's support for the efforts Egypt is exerting to establish peace in the Middle East.

The petroleum minister pointed out that during his visit he had held talks with Chinese Government officials and experts on strengthening the aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mining and petroleum. An agreement was reached on the two countries' exchanging technical expertise and missions. It is worth noting that, during his visit, the petroleum minister toured oilfields and petroleum plants, iron and steel factories and spinning and weaving factories. He also visited several Chinese provinces.

MENA CITES FRENCH SOURCES ON ALGERIAN DISPUTES

NC061954Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 6 March--French sources close to the ruling regime in Algeria have told us that secret disputes within the ruling leadership in Algeria have reached a dangerous point in the last few weeks. These sources stressed that although these disputes date back over 2 years, the Saharan problem and the rejectionist front in Algiers have suddenly pushed these disputes to the forefront.

At a secret meeting of the Political Bureau of the ruling party, an Algerian official criticized President Boumediene's handling of the Saharan problem and the rejectionist conference in Algiers. This official said that personal leadership considerations have led Algeria to become indirectly involved in an endless military operation against Morocco and have deprived Algeria of the freedom of movement in North Africa and the Mediterranean. This is at a time when King Hassan and Moroccan diplomacy enjoy freedom of movement and dialog on the international level, whether with the United States or the Soviet Union.

The same sources explained that King Hassan has successfully concluded recently a fisheries agreement with the Soviet Union, following a phosphate agreement between the two countries. In view of this, the Soviet Union now gives only lipservice support to Algeria regarding the Sahara and has become eager not to anger Morocco. This is a success for Moroccan diplomacy at the expense of Algeria.

The same sources added that several European capitals feel that Algeria's international status diminished after it had agreed to play a role at the Algiers rejectionist conference which was picked for it by Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

SALIM RECEIVES ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

LD031428Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1140 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 3 March, AGERPRES--Angelo Miculescu, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food industry of Romania, now visiting Egypt, was received by Mamduh Salim, prime minister of Egypt.

Reviewed were the fruitful results of the Romanian-Egyptian economic and technical cooperation and the measures covenanted at the tenth session of the Romanian-Egyptian Joint Government Commission of Economic and Technical Cooperation, now being held in Cairo. Satisfaction was expressed at the continuously upward course of relations between Romania and Egypt and emphasized were the possibilities that exist for the expansion of bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

Delegation Leaves Cairo

NC041553Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 March--The Romanian economic delegation headed by Angelo Miculescu, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, food industry and water, left Cairo for home today. The Romanian delegation arrived in Cairo on 25 February on a visit during which the protocol of the 10th session of the Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between Egypt and Romania was signed.

AS-SADAT SCIENTIFIC ADVISER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC042210Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 March--Dr Faruq al-Baz, President Anwar as-Sadat's adviser for scientific affairs, arrived in Cairo from London tonight after being summoned by the president to accompany him in his tour of Upper Egypt provinces which will begin on Tuesday.

Adviser Reports on Minerals

NC061351Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Dr Faruq al-Baz, President as-Sadat's scientific adviser, has said that President as-Sadat's tour of the governorates of Upper Egypt is aimed at familiarizing himself with the new development projects in Upper Egypt and at choosing areas for the new land reclamation projects.

Dr al-Baz said that there are indications of oil deposits in the Western Desert and that some American companies are currently carrying out prospecting work in a large area of the Western Desert extending from Al-Wahat al-Bahriyah in the north to Jabal al-'Uwaynat in the south. He said that the photographs taken by satellites prove that there is oil in the area.

Al-Baz said that there are mines rich in phosphates in Abu Tartur and that production in these mines will begin within a year. He added that there is iron ore in Al-Wahat al-Bahriyah. Al-Baz concluded his statement by saying that the United States has decided to loan Egypt $1 billion to cover all its food and agricultural projects and that this will guarantee Egyptian food security.

COMMON MARKET DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC031930Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] An economic delegation representing the European Common Market Committee and the European Investments Bank led by (Klaus Mayer), a director in the market committee, arrived in Cairo today. During the 4-day visit, the delegation will hold discussions with Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affiars Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, Minister of Trade and Supply Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Pattah and Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih. The discussions are aimed at defining the development projects which will be financed within the framework of the comprehensive economic cooperation agreement which was signed between Egypt and the European Common Market around the beginning of last year. This agreement provides for granting Egypt loans and economic aid amounting to $204 million during the next 5 years. The agreement also grants Egyptian exports to the market member states customs reductions of up to about 80 percent.

INDIA AGREES TO GRANT EGYPT $25-MILLION LOAN

NC031405Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Indian Government has agreed in principle to grant a $25 million loan to Egypt. The loan is to be used for the electrification of the countryside in accordance with the 5-year plan of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

This loan will finance projects for the electrification of irrigation canals and projects connected with food security. A top-level delegation of experts of the Indian Ministry of Energy is scheduled to arrive in Cairo in mid-March in order to hold consultations with Egyptian officials on this matter.

It is worth noting that this loan is within the framework of cooperation between Egypt and India in the field of electricity. It was agreed upon during the visit of the deputy prime minister for production and minister of electricity and energy, Engineer Ahmad Sultan, to India last January.

SUDAN'S NUMAYRI TO VISIT EGYPT NEXT WEEKEND

LD040028Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 3 March--In tomorrow's issue AL-AHRAM reports that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will arrive in Cairo next weekend on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. The paper says that during the visit President as-Sadat and President Numayri will discuss the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East.

AS-SADAT TO ATTEND CAIRO UNIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS

NC061340Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will attend the celebration which will be held by Cairo University on 18 March to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Qasr al-'Ayni and the faculties of medicine and pharmacy of Cairo University. The opening session will be attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and the deputy prime ministers.

WAFD LEADER BECOMES ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

NC010901Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--In his capacity as the president of the ASU Central Committee, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has issued a decree making Fu'ad Saraj ad-Din, the leader of the New Wafd Party, a member of the ASU Central Committee.

It is known that all leaders of the political parties in Egypt are members of the Central Committee in accordance with the parties law. The formation of the New Wafd Party was announced early in February. It is the fourth party to be formed in Egypt after the formation of parties was legalized.

PEACE COUNCIL URGES END TO VIETNAM-CAMBODIA [illegible]

JN051859Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 March--The National Council for Peace and Solidarity in Iraq has called on the republics of Vietnam and Cambodia to end the armed clashes and to solve their differences by peaceful means in accordance with international norms and on the basis of consolidating the unity of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples.

'Aziz Sharif, secretary general of the council, issued a statement today praising the stands and efforts that are being adopted and exerted to reconcile the two friendly countries, to solve their problems peacefully and strengthen their joint front against imperialism and neocolonialism.

The statement stresses that the Iraqi people join the voices of the righteous men in the world for the sake of overcoming this ordeal and proceeding along the road of the glorious traditions of the march of struggle against world imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism.

The statement points out that the peace-loving people and the world progressive circles are following with extreme concern the state of tension and the military clashes on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. They believe that this endangers the interests of the two peoples and the peace and security of the India-China area.

The statement explains that the council's call stems from its strong belief in the principles of peace, security and cooperation among peoples and in accordance with the ties of ancient and strong friendship binding our people with the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples.

ARAB JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE END, STATEMENT ISSUED

JN022054Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The extraordinary conference of the Arab Journalists has denounced the treasonable visit of the president of the Egyptian regime to the occupied homeland and his talks with the Zionist enemy. The conference considered the visit a link in the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot.

At the conclusion of its 4 days of meeting in Baghdad, the conference condemned the political regimes and forces which prepared the visit or supported it. The conference called for condemnattion of the visit and of all the attempts to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation. The conference saluted the struggle of the masses in Egypt against the reactionary regime of As-Sadat, which is an accomplice of the imperialists and the Zionists. The conference resolutions also condemned the Egyptian journalists who took took part in the visit or who supported it and all those who work to mislead the Arab masses and lead them to believe in the visit's benefits. The conference called upon the progressive national forces in Egypt to increase their endeavors to bring down the As-Sadat regime and break the isolation of our Egyptian Arab people in order to enable them to regain their role in the national struggle. The conference was unanimous in it support for the resolutions of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Journalists Union which met in Baghdad in November last year.

The conference resolutions reaffirmed support for the armed Palestinian resistance movement with all available means, and for opening to the resistance the Arab fronts with the enemy to enable it to carry out its task of confronting the Zionist enemy. The conference said that just peace cannot be achieved through the current projects of settlements and surrender but through the liberation of Arab territories and the regaining of the complete rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to liberate their homeland and to decide their own destiny upon their own soil.

The resolutions affirmed the need to work for the preservation of the Lebanese territory and people, to resist all attempts to divide it or to make it a base for the anti-Arab forces, to work for strengthening the Lebanese south and to deepen the solidarity between the Lebanese and the Palestinian masses. The resolutions also affirmed the need to put the Arab economy in the service of the national struggle and called for withdrawing Arab capital from foreign banks and pooling it for Arab solidarity. They called for strengthening the Arab principle of the complete liberation of Arab territories and for national development.

The conference condemned the campaign of arrests launched recently by the Jordanian authorities. Those arrested included politicians and strugglers. This campaign, the resolutions added, comes in the wake of the Jordanian regime's preparations to make itself a party in the negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

The conference issued resolutions drafted by the specialized professional committee of the conference which call for amending a part of the Arab Journalists Union rules to enable the union to activate its role as an effective mass organization. The amendments will be submitted for approval at the next general conference of the union.

This evening it was announced at the conference that Mr Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, first vice president of the union, will assume the work of the president and the secretary general and will have full powers until the holding of the next general conference or until the president of the union comes to Baghdad, which is the union's temporary headquarters, and assumes his duties.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF ARAB NEWS AGENCIES UNION ARRIVES

JN0209327 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 March--Secretary General of the Arab News Agencies Union Dr Farid Ayyar arrived in Baghdad this morning on a visit of several days to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Dr Ayyar will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Information on the union's activities during the next stage.

ATH-THAWRAH DISCUSSES DOLLAR VALUE, OIL PRICES

JN0508147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH explains here today that there is a need to rectify oil prices not only on the basis of the decline in the value of the dollar, but also on the basis of the rise of the average inflation rate in the industrial capitalist countries.

In an article on the rectification of oil prices, the paper criticizes the forces which prevented the adoption of a decision on rectification of oil prices at the recent OPEC conference. The paper says these forces are still applying pressure in order to continue the current price freeze throughout this year at least.

AR-RA'Y: ATHERTON'S MISSION 'IN VICIOUS CIRCLE'

JN060723Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Mar 78 pp 1, 10 JN

[By AR-RA'Y political editor: "An Alternative to the Current Peace Efforts"]

[Text] The difficulties special U.S. Envoy to the Middle East Alfred Atherton is facing have increased to the point that he was forced to cancel his scheduled visit to Riyadh yesterday and to go to Cairo. The cancellation of his visit to Riyadh has been interpreted as an indication that he is convinced that his mission is in a vicious circle. Diplomatic sources, however, did not rule out that Riyadh apologized for not receiving him as an expression of its indignation at Israel's stands, which are impeding peace efforts. Certain observers pointed to the possibility that Saudi Arabia's apology for not receving Atherton was hint to Washington that the current situation requires actual pressure on Israel, particularly in light of the talks President Carter will hold with Menahem Begin on 14 March.

Informed sources said that Atherton has become convinced that his mission is nearly finished if not actually finished owing to the widening gap between the Israeli and Egyptian stands, particularly concerning the two basic points of complete withdrawal and the Palestine issue. These sources said that after his talks in Amman Atherton became convinced of the need to find an alternative to the direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel, based on the principles outlined in the U.S.-Soviet statement, particularly the call to resume the Geneva conference with the participation of all parties.

Atherton has made sure that Jordan's stand concerning the peace efforts has not changed and that its participation is inconceivable under the current circumstances. In his talks with Jordanian officials Atherton sensed that Jordan insists on two basic conditions to participate in the peace efforts; that is, complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Sources close to the U.S. envoy said that he feels that his mission faces the same fate as any deadlocked mission.

HUSAYN GIVES SPEECH AT BANQUET FOR AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT

JN052159Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text of speech by Jordan's King Husayn at evening banquet held at Basman Palace in Amman on 5 March in honor of Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger and Mrs Kirchschlaeger--read by announcer]

[Text] Your excellency, my dear friend: It is a great source of pleasure for me that Your Excellency is with us here in Jordan with the distinguished delegation accompanying you. We are establishing strong relations with Austria. These relations are not confined just to the growing friendship which has developed between our two countries in recent years, but also stem from our admiration of Austria's history, traditions and achievements. Austria is a country which has known glory and has clearly contributed to human civilization. The world has recorded Austria's unique contribution to enriching our modern world with culture, thought and distinct achievements in all aspects of national life. Your great history and legacy are characterized by their progressive attitude toward national and international issues as well as a national commitment toward world peace.

We in Jordan also believe in the existence of a just and peaceful world. We believe that we too are making our contribution in this respect in this part of the world. We are also ready to proceed in pursuing the objective of peace in our area. However, for peace to be permanent, it must be founded on a just basis. This is why we have been reiterating that the principles which must be adopted in solving the basic issue in our area are: the termination of the military occupation and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian Arab people must be able to exercise their legitimate right to determine their own destiny in complete freedom. They must also participate in the achievement of a just settlement. Most of world public opinion has supported these principles for achieving peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The Austrian leadership has repeatedly expressed its understanding of the requirements of a just peace in the area. It has also supported this. There is vast scope for future cooperation between Austria and Jordan in the economic, technical, political, cultural and educational fields. We would like to see such cooperation between our two friendly peoples continue to the furthest limits.

I hope, Your Excellency, that your present memorable visit in the company of the charming and graceful first lady of Austria and the other members of your delegation will be a turning point in our friendly relations. I wish the great Austrian people progress and prosperity under your wise leadership.

Austrian President's Address

JN052213Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text of speech by Austrian President Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger at evening banquet hosted by Jordan's King Husayn on 5 March at Basman Palace in Amman--read by announcer]

[Text] Your Majesty, my dear friend: May I warmly thank Your Majesty in my own name and on behalf of my wife and the delegation accompanying me for your welcoming speech and your warm hospitality. I feel particularly happy because by this official visit I am the first Austrian president to have the opportunity to see your beautiful country. I sincerely hope that this visit will contribute to deepening friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Just as we are endeavoring to strengthen the relations between our two countries, we also feel, as we look into the past, that there has been traditional and long-standing cooperation and joint work. For a very long time there have been numerous contacts in various fields between the ancient Austrian Empire and the Middle Eastern states. Your Majesty's visit to Austria in 1976--which we always remember with pleasure--was the beginning of a new and strong development in relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Austria. I am convinced that we are desirous of working for the joint endeavors which we began some years back and, therefore, I have been looking forward to the resumption of our talks for a long time. There is a strong relationship between economics and politics and, therefore, economic cooperation assumes great significance in any dialog which takes place between any two nations. We fully appreciate your country's successful efforts to develop a modern industry and modernize your economy. We in Austria faced the need to rebuild our economy after World War II. The exchange of experience between our two countries will motivate us to achieve mutually beneficial economic and technological progress in the future.

During the talks held during the visit of Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal to Austria, many definite areas for stronger economic cooperation between the two countries emerged. I am pleased to concur with Your Majesty that there is a desire to support exchanges between us in the cultural and scientific fields. We must particularly concentrate on the dialog among artists and scientists through more cooperation between the concerned organizations. We must also stress the exchange of teachers and students. It seems to me that the best guarantee for everlasting friendship is by increasing familiarity with one another.

The Austrian people appreciate and admire the wise policy of your country and the sincere political commitment of Your Majesty to exerting efforts to achieve a just peace. We are aware of the main role and the political responsibility borne by Your Majesty and your country in seeking a peaceful settlement to the existing dispute. We earnestly hope that your efforts and the sacrifices of your people will find a quick reward through the achievement of a just peace so that the peoples in the region might be able to live in peace and without fear.

In conclusion I wish Your Majesty personal happiness and hope that you and your people, who deserve respect, will enjoy a just and lasting peace.

Husayn, Kirchschlaeger Hold Talks

JN061250Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Official talks were held at noon at the Royal Hashemite Court between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, president of Austria. His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the current situation in the area, various peace efforts and Jordan's stand toward peace since 1967. His majesty concentrated on the positive stand Jordan has adopted in the interests of peace in the area and the world. King Husayn stressed that the pivot to a just and peaceful settlement was and will be complete Israeli withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination.

King Husayn reasserted Jordan's concern for a just peace in the area for the benefit of the people of the area and the world. He demonstrated that Israel's stand toward peace efforts and a just settlement is the main obstacle to the progress of peace efforts in view of Israel's total intransigence concerning withdrawal and the Palestinian people's rights. These two issues constitute the crux of the conflict in the area. King Husayn called on the world countries to show understanding of this fact and to make efforts to change Israel's stand, which is necessary to open the way for a just peace.

Dr Kirchschlaeger reviewed his country's stand toward the Middle East problem. He stressed that his country supports its well-known declared stand in support of a just peace. He lauded Jordan's positive and responsible role in the Arab world and in the area in general.

A review was made of the aspects of economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Details of the discussion were referred to two specialized delegations from the two countries. They will discuss cooperation this afternoon and in the next few days in light of the broad lines agreed upon at today's meeting.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; the court minister; the minister of state for foreign affairs; the minister of industry and trade; the chairman of the National Planning Council and the Jordanian ambassador to Austria.

Attending the talks on the Austrian side were Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Willibald Pahr; Minister of Commerce and Industry Josef Staribacher; the director of the presidential office; the director general of the Political Departments in the Foreign Ministry; the Austrian ambassador to Jordan; the presidential political adviser and the director of information and press in the republican palace.

Economics, Trade Discussed

JN162029Y Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At the Prime Ministry this afternoon a working session was held between the Jordanian and Austrian sides in which economic and trade relations were discussed. Heading the Jordanian side was Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajjani, the minister of trade and industry. The Austrian side was chaired by her minister of industry. Among the topics also discussed were economic and touristic projects to be financed by Austria.

MINISTER SAYS JORDAN WILL NOT JOIN PEACE TALKS

JN031831Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Minister of Information 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has stated that Jordan is not prepared to join Egypt and Israel in the Middle East peace negotiations under the current circumstances. Abu 'Awdah said that Jordan seeks a peaceful settlement based on a known formula; namely, peace in return for the occupied Arab territories and Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's full rights.

Minister Abu 'Awdah said that the Arabs have offered a lot, but Israel has done nothing for peace. Israel is trying to gain time and set up other settlements in the occupied territories, Abu 'Awdah added. In an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly AN-NAHDAH published today, Minister Abu 'Awdah added that Israel will not change its antipeace policy in the Middle East following President as-Sadat's peace initiative.

On the U.S. efforts to help Egypt and Israel draw up a joint formula regarding the declaration of principles for a peaceful settlement, the minister said that Israel's talk on this declaration is part of a deceitful campaign. He said that the required principles are well known and were stipulated in the UN resolutions which were adopted 10 years ago. He said that the problem lies in the fact that Israel refuses to abide by them.

AL-ASAD: LIBERATION REMAINS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF STRUGGLE

JN061927Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Delegations from the provinces of Al-Qunaytirah and Damascus today congratulated President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection as president of the republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad thanked the delegations of the two provinces. He addressed the sons of the province of Al-Qunaytirah and said: I am pleased to meet with you--with the sons of the frontline province and the first line of defense of all Arabs. The objective for which we are now struggling unwaveringly and without concession as we have in the past, remains the liberation of the occupied territories, including the Golan. The president added: You know better than others the meaning of war, defense and offense. You lived for months with the noise of artillery and the explosions of bombs. You gave the best example with your steadfastness, adherence to the land and your high morale. We destroyed the myth of the enemy's superiority during the October war and the war of attrition. We proved that the people, who are known for their determination, who adhere to the land, who believe in the national duty and who fight unswervingly, are capable of confronting aggression and of achieving victory.

President al-Asad said: We have also proved that man is the mainstay in battle. Our citizens and armed forces were aware of this fact and applied it during the fighting. He said: We are defending our rights, land and shrines. There will be no peace so long as 1 inch of Arab territory remains occupied and so long as the rights of the Palestinian people are oppressed. We will only accept the restoration of land and rights with dignity. This is because peoples' rights cannot be begged for and we will not adopt humiliating stands no matter how long the struggle. We are confident that the people, who are adhering to their dear national unity, cannot be defeated.

In his address to the delegation from Damascus Province, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his pride over the indications of national unity which were manifested during the plebiscite. He said: So long as the march is common and everybody is participating, in it and so long as we have this kind of determination, persistence, amity, love and national unity, we will be capable of overcoming all obstacles facing us. The credit for the achievements scored during the past 7 years goes to our cohesion and solidarity and to the mobilization of our forces to confront any danger threatening our homeland.

The president added: Adversaries centered on our national unity, trying to harm it. However, our people, with their deep vigilance and national perception, foiled all the adversaries' attempts. Our domestic front is being constantly consolidated and its strength has been manifested during major situations.

The president pointed out that there are some people who are not happy to see Syria strong and well fortified. We have aborted all attempts aimed at weakening this country. Syria will continue to be strong because, when it is strong, it will be beneficial to itself and to our brothers. Our country will continue to be well fortified because its people believe in their nation, love their homeland and are preserving Arab rights and values. Our good and noble people will continue to be, as they have been throughout history, a national steadfast front in the face of all enemy attempts. We will continue to address our brothers and the entire world with an open mind and responsibility. We will remain above the level to which certain people have sunk.

President al-Asad asked the delegations to convey his greetings to all the sons of Al-Qunaytirah and Damascus provinces.

DEFENSE MINISTER ADDRESSES RALLY MARKING AL-ASAD'S REELECTION

JN061928Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] On the occasion of the reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad as president of the republic and on the 15th anniversary of the Glorious 8 March Revolution, the command of the popular army held a mammoth speech rally this morning under the patronage of Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister. Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali, commander of the popular army, also attended the rally.

General Talas conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad and addressed the members of the popular army and the instructors of the paramilitary forces who attended. He said: I convey to you the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad who played a great role in planning and executing the Glorious 8 March Revolution. When this revolution erupted, President al-Asad also played a big role in defending and [words indistinct].

General Talas pointed out Syria's honorable and pan-Arab role under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in the battle of steadfastness and confrontation to wreck the capitulationist schemes and plots being implemented by Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat in collusion with the U.S.-Zionist alliance--schemes and plots aimed at aborting the march of the Arab struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

In conclusion General Talas lauded the heroic role of our armed forces and the army's role during the October liberation war when the Arab fighters set the best example with their sacrifice, martyrdom and heroism. He said: We will continue the march with strength and determination until the objectives of our Arab nation for liberation and victory are achieved.

ALGERIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN070607Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Algerian parliamentary delegation headed by Mohamed El Ibrahimi, chairman of the Culture, Education and Information Committee of the Algerian People's Assembly, yesterday arrived in Damascus for a 6-day visit to Syria. The Algerian parliamentary delegation was welcomed at the airport by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, a number of assembly members, and high-ranking officials of the assembly.

PRESS COMMENTS ON ATHERTON'S MISSION, LEBANESE ISSUE

JN070708Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon is the Lebanon of Legitimacy," AL-BA-YH today says: The question of the recovery of Lebanon is more important than any personal demands. The more clear this is to certain forces which are trying to ignore this fact the better these forces will be able to spare themselves blame for any delay which might occur as a result of their unbalanced behavior, which lacks sense and objective understanding of the current state of affairs. Some of these forces believe that domestic or foreign balances give them the power to go on delaying Lebanon's progress toward its new goal. Such persons are entertaining not only dreams but also illusions, and are unable to understand the facts of the current situation.

Such persons would thus place themselves in an unacceptable position in the new Lebanon, the Arab Lebanon of clear aspirations, image and affiliations in all senses of these words. We should then keep in mind that each incident will be answered and every man will reap the results of his actions.

On Alfred Atherton's shuttle trips, ATH-THAWRAH today says: Atherton has returned to Cairo once again emptyhanded despite all the efforts and endeavors to achieve the minimum goals of his mission and to preserve As-Sadat's face, which he lost at the door of the enemy and in the lap of Washington. Atherton returned in failure not because Begin remained inflexible and intransigent and rejected As-Sadat's conditions, but because capitulationist policies are doomed in advance to failure for many reasons, foremost of which may be the nature of the Zionist mentality, which is based on expansion, occupation, a continued state of aggression, emphasis on lack of security, fear and persecution complexes. This mentality is the only thing that has succeeded over the past 30 years in uniting human groups with social, economic and cultural contradictions. The heirs of the Zionist mentality believe it will continue to succeed until the distant dream of a new strong empire is achieved, bringing the population of the area under its direct or indirect domination. Experience has shown that only Arab strength can impose the desire of peace and justice and that Arab solidarity and unity are the sharpest weapons in the long confrontation battle with the Zionist enemy and the overt and covert forces which back it. This battle requires military preparation as well as polictical and pan-Arab enlightenment and understanding of the rules of the internatioanl diplomatic game.

Concluding, ATH-THAWRAH says: To maintain the course of defeatism and kneeling can only lead to nothing, to a dead end. In addition, it will lead to a negative impact and grave perils, and renders services which the enemy never dreamed of or expected even if the conflict were to continue for dozens or even hundreds of years.

SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN0613llY Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 6 March--The Soviet delegation to the permanent Syrian-Soviet Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chief of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the Soviet Council of Ministers and deputy chief of the Soviet delegation to the committee, arrived in Damascus this morning.

The delegation was received upon arrival at Damascus international airport by Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, and by the assistant ministers of planning, electricity, economy and foreign trade, oil, transport and Euphrates dam. The delegation was also met by Yurity Chernyakov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, and the Soviet Embassy staff.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA SENDS OUT MESSAGE ABOUT SALISBURY PLAN

LD061540Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Algiers--Following the signing of the so-called internal agreement in Salisbury, President Boumediene has sent messages to the presidents of the OAU and the nonalined countries, and Foreign Minister Bouteflika has sent messages to the secretaries general of the United Nations, the OAU, the Arab League and the Conference of Islamic Countries and to the presidents of the Security Council and the OAU Council of Ministers.

The following message was sent by President Boumediene to the president of the fifth conference of the heads of state and government of the nonalined countries:

"The Zimbabwe issue has just seen a new and serious development with the announcement of a so-called agreement signed in Salisbury which aims at perverting the normal decolonization process of this territory. In 1965 the racist minority regime of Ian Smith tried, by proclaiming unilateral independence, to stifle the legitimate aspirations of the African people of Zimbabwe for an authentic liberation. By doing this it defied not only Britain, the administrating power, but also the whole of the international community which had always proclaimed its attachment to the right of peoples to independence and its solidarity with the fight of the African peoples against colonialism, racism and apartheid.

"Because of this, the Salisbury regime found itself isolated as much on the political as on the economic level, despite the active support of the apartheid regime of South Africa and the compliance of certain powers which were more concerned with immediate economic or strategic interests than with respect for the rights of peoples. Also, the agreement announced in Salisbury is presented as a further maneuver all the more desperate and destined to failure since it takes place in the context of the intensification of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe under the direction of the Patriotic Front, the authentic movement of national liberation, recognized and supported by the OAU and by all the forces of peace and progress in the world. In the eyes of the international community this agreement appears as the manifestation of the desire to legitimize the illegal regime of Ian Smith. Under the guise of a would-be peaceful search for solution, it in fact aims at increasing the divisions within the people of Zimbabwe, sowing the seeds of civil war, and provoking conflicts of a self-propagating nature in the whole of southern Africa, which, as is known, is confronted with the serious problem of Namibia and the apartheid regime.

"It is precisely with the aim of foiling such maneuvers and removing such threats that the OAU decided at the 14th session of heads of state and government to recognize Zimbabwe. In the same spirit, the recent OAU Council of Ministers meeting in Tripoli condemned the deals which took place in Salisbury, rejecting the conclusions in advance. Having been able to take a courageous and highly responsible attitude with regard to the problem of Zimbabwe, the OAU will not fail to denounce this agreement which attacks the higher interests of the people of Zimbabwe and the whole of Africa, and will be able to strengthen its support for the Patriotic Front until the people of Zimbabwe fully achieve national rights.

"The group of nonalined countries, which has always played a consistent role in favor of decolonization, especially in Africa, will be able, I am sure, to show once again its active solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe who, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, are pursuing a courageous struggle for authentic liberation and the achievement of their national rights. I am convinced that you will not fail to take all the initiatives which you find appropriate to cement the solidarity of the nonalined countries with the just cause of the people of Zimbabwe.

"In this crucial phase of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, I am certain, Mr President and dear brother, that, taking advantage of the decision of the Libreville summit, you will not fail to take any initiative to insure the respect of the desire of Africa and safeguard the fundamental and inalienable rights of the people of Zimbabwe."

Foreign Minister Bouteflike sent a similar message to the UN secretary general, the president of the Security Council of the OAU, and the secretary general of the Arab League.

LIBYA

SED'S LAMBERZ HOLDS TALKS WITH JALLUD IN TRIPOLI

LD061652Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1457 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, today received Werner Lamberz, the special envoy of the general secretary of the SED Central Committee, Erich Honecker.

In detailed and cordial talks, political, economic, cultural and scientific-technical cooperation between the GDR and Libya were discussed. A further subject of discussion was the joint struggle of the two countries against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, especially in the Arab world and in Africa. Werner Lamberz and 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud stressed the usefulness of trusting political consultations between leading personages of the two states and discussed measures that further the common aims of peace, independence and social progress.

Taha ash-Sharif ibn Amir, liaison secretary of the General People's Committee; Paul Markowski, member of the SED central committee; and Ambassador Freimut Seidel also took part in the meeting.

Death of Lamberz Announced

LD071232Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 7 March, JANA--A painful accident occured last night when a helicopter carrying Werner Lamberz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party [SED] of the GDR and an accompanying delegation crashed near Tripoli. The helicopter was also carrying Taha ash-Sharif ibn 'Amir, liaison secretary, and brother Ahmad Bushagur, director of protocol at the Foreign Secretariat.

All the eleven occupants of the helicopter died in the crash. On the East German side, they were: Werner Lamberz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee; Paul Markowski, member of the SED Central Committee; Armin Ernst, interpreter; and Mr Achim Spremberg, a photographer.

On the Arab Libyan side, the victims were: brother Taha ash-Sharif ibn 'Amir, liaison secretary; brother Ahmad Bushagur, director of protocol at the Foreign Secretariat; brother Hasan al-Jday as-Suway'i, from the Protocol Department of the Foreign Secretariat; pilot Capt Sa'id Hilmi; pilot Lt Muhammad Sualh; technician Sgt Muhammad al-Mabruk; technician Cpl Miftah al-Husuni.

The general secretariat of the General People's Congress announced the death of the guest delegation members, those accompanying them and the helicopter crew. Libyan radio and television interrupted their programs to report the accident and broadcast readings from the Koran.

Maj Abd as-Salam Jallud yesterday received Werner Lamberz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, who was on a visit to the Jamahiriyah, as a personal envoy of the GDR president. The meeting was attended by the late brother Taha ash-Sharif ibn 'Amir, liaison secretary, and by the ambassador of the GDR to the Jamahiriyah.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CHADIAN PRESIDENT

LD041200Y Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 4, JANA--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Fatah revolution, received yesterday the vice-chairman of the Chad Military Council who delivered a personal message from President Felix Malloum of Chad in the presence of Lt Mahamoud Abderaman, a member of the Chad Military Council, the secretary of liaison and the Chad charge d'affaires in the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

LE MATIN SCORES LIBYAN, ALGERIAN STATEMENTS AT OAU

LD011255Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 22 Feb 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Further Defeat of Algerian Government in...Tripoli"]

[Text] Although technical matters have predominated in Tripoli, where the proceedings of the OAU ministerial council began Monday, politics, if not polemics, have nevertheless played a part, as a result of the successive speeches by Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the representative of the dictator of Algiers.

However, nothing on the meeting's agenda foreshadowed such developments. Initially it was only a matter of studying the report of the ad hoc committee on reforming the regional organization's administrative structures, redefining the forms of a more fruitful inter-African cooperation and making a decision on the report drafted by the OAU's coordinating committee on the liberation of Africa, which also met in Tripoli last week.

The delegates to the ministerial council meeting were resolved to keep to this already full program when the president delivered the opening speech of the conference--an inflammatory speech in which the Libyan head of state attacked both "European colonialism" and those whom he regards as its leading exponents--France; Portugal; Britain; Iran, "which has not put an end to its cooperation with the racist regime in South Africa"; and Egypt, "which has undertaken to break the encirclement of the racist regime in Palestine." This last mentioned accusation caused the first incident of the evening when, infuriated by Al-Qadhdhafi, the Egyptian delegation left the conference hall.

There was, moreover, another passage in the opening speech which touched off the second skirmish of the evening. Raising the Sahara issue, the Libyan president expressed the wish to see this matter resolved by the OAU's extraordinary summit, which is scheduled in principle to take place in Libreville in March.

Seizing the opportunity with that sense of opportunism and duplicity characteristic of him, the Algerian delegate made a statement on behalf of his government during the debate on problems of decolonization in which, while acclaiming the OAU current chairman's praiseworthy efforts to bring about the holding of the OAU's extraordinary summit on the Sahara, he called into question in scarcely veiled terms the principle of our sovereignty over that part of the kingdom.

Abderrahmane Baddou, head of the Moroccan delegation, immediately interrupted him, maintaining that the Sahara issue was not on the agenda, that it was not for anybody to exploit the opening speech in order to uphold a personal viewpoint and that the Sahara issue was within the exclusive province of the OAU's extraordinary summit.

Complicated by considerations of form and procedure--the conference's drafting committee having mentioned the Algerian statement while omitting the Moroccan delegate's speech--this issue would have taken a graver turn but for the desire for conciliation expressed by several delegations to the conference.

It was finally decided to retain the Algerian Government's statement solely as a source document and to place it in the records of the conference.

This affair is not, moreover, the only blunder made by the Algerian delegation in Tripoli. If observers regard it as a bitter setback for the opportunist policy of the Algiers authorities, there is another which they consider even more grave.

In fact, the Algerian delegation attempted from the start of the meeting by unorthodox methods to gain acceptance for the idea of participation by the so-called POLISARIO in the conference.

The Moroccan delegation reacted immediately and sharply by referring the matter to the chairman of the meeting--Libyan Secretary of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki--to induce him to put an end to this illegal situation.

Our country's delegation to the OAU ministerial council meeting put forward its case so well that it secured not only the exclusion of the so-called POLISARIO'S delegation from the conference hall but also its exclusion from the Beach Hotel, where the official delegations are staying.

LE MATIN CITES CLAIMS ON BOUMEDIENE'S FAILURES

LD031709Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 25 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Boumediene Regime on Its Last Legs"]

[Text] The year 1977 was marked by a worsening of the political, economic and social situation in our country, [Clandestine Algiers newspaper] LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE writes, speaking of Algeria. It ended with recognition of the regime's unmitigated failure as regards our relations with the Maghreb and the rest of the world.

As in 1976, the regime has become more and more isolated within Algeria itself. The "legitimization" operation has been unable to halt the boycotting of the moribund national liberation front and its so-called mass organizations, or the social tension, with its outward manifestations in the form of strikes or, above all, the general popular discontent. The arrest and sentencing of Algerians--as young as 10 years old--whose only crime is printing and distributing tracts and publications denouncing the injustices and shortcomings of the regime or merely going on strike, testifies to the development of dissidence and resistance to the dictatorship. Factional struggle and informing have only served to prolong and aggravate the crisis within the regime.

This political deadlock, in which any moves toward the observance of democratic freedoms and sovereign expression of the people's will are ruled out by the dictatorship, is extending into the economic sphere and the daily administration of public affairs. The deterioration in the state of the country in general, the disappearance--one could say the killing off--of agriculture, the fall in production, the disorganization of services and in particular the proliferation of shortages have only confirmed the incompetence and negligence of the regime over the past 12 years as regards a coherent, effective development policy.

The silence which the ruling oligarchy has observed up till the beginning of 1978 about the results of the second 4-year plan of 1974-77--in contrast to its usually triumphant attitude--is ample proof of its failure. Since it exceeded our performance and above all financing potential, the 120 billion dinars invested in it have only had the effect of insuring our economic dependence and increasing Algeria's public debt to American financial bodies. Reimbursement of the basis of this debt alone will amount to 7 percent of the GNP in 1980.

Apart from this mortgaging of Algeria's economic, financial and political future, the regime has been unable to undertake any social action worthy of the name. Incapable as it is of curbing inflation, throughout 1977 the dictatorship continued to worsen the material situation of the majority of Algerian people, which is becoming more and more alarming. A demagogic and irresponsible price and wage policy has constantly reduced, like a shrinking hide, family purchasing power.

Over the past 10 years, up to last November, the cost of living had risen fivefold. Between December 1977 and January 1978 it has almost doubled. The severe austerity imposed on the majority of Algerian people has only produced privileges for the ruling cast, which has become increasingly opulent. It has merely been an alibi for colossal, but unproductive, investments and a cost of living higher than that of the United States.

Whether on the political, economic or social front, the regime's failure in administering the country became increasingly acute in 1977 while its isolation outside our borders was accentuated. After using and abusing Algeria's prestige--a prestige acquired through hard struggle and respect for the noblest values of courage, political honesty, modesty and fraternity among peoples, the regime has transposed into the realms of Arab Maghreb, African and even international relations its internal behavior, marked by contempt, arrogance, aggressiveness and diktat. As the regime has bared itself and emerged as it is, in other words, a dictatorship, this attitude has served to diminish that prestige and transform it into isolation.

During 1977 this isolation worsened. Despite its liberality with oil and currency, so detrimental to our balance of payments, our investments and our development, the regime did not even succeed in finding an African capital willing to host the extraordinary OAU summit on the Western Sahara problem. The last-minute agreement of President Bongo to hold it in Libreville is another form of humiliation for the regime. It has been forced to bow down to the draconian conditions imposed by the current OAU president.

During the past year, the regime's failure in both the national and the international spheres and the existence of an increasingly well-organized resistance movement which advocates democratic change and opens a new path for our country have led to confusion and embarrassment within the clique in power. As a result the dictatorship has been forced to increase its pressures and intensify its repressive measures. In January 1978 it increased its efforts aimed at deceiving and misleading the Algerian people and at showing off in the international sphere, especially in the Arab world and the Maghreb.

In order to survive, it has been bargaining away our economy in the West and sacrificed our national independence in the East.

At the beginning of 1978 with its back to the wall, it has been sinking further into stagnation connected with a disorganization of society and the economy. Being unable to do anything in the Maghreb but flounder along, it could well decide to take the risk and start a criminal and fratricidal open war.

Therefore, the coming year appears to be full of dangers to Algeria and of innumerable difficulties for the majority of the Algerian people. However, only the regime and no one else is responsible for this situation. Having imposed itself by force, monopolized the country's government and exercised absolute power, it has shown itself to be the enemy of democracy, freedoms and the popular masses' welfare, just as it has shown itself to be the destroyer of national unity and of the Maghrebian ideal. Its future can no longer be linked with that of the Algerian people whom it has oppressed.

In the face of the danger of a possible military adventure, increasing daily difficulties, pressure exerted by the dictatorship and by its repressive measures, an intensification of the action aimed at changing the government and establishing a democratic regime is more than necessary. It is of vital importance that this should happen in 1978. The consolidation of the organization of action by the broad movement of opinion for which LIBERTE ET DEMOCRATIE is spokesman is imperative. It will remain imperative until the dictatorship is reduced to impotence in the interest of Algeria, the Maghreb, the Arab world and Africa.

OSMAN HOPES U.S. WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN AFRICA

LD052210Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ahmed Osman granted an interview to the weekly JEUNE AFRIQUE. The prime minister spoke about democracy, national defense, the economy and Moroccan diplomacy.

Asked whether the liberal movement represents a party or just a grouping, the prime minister said that electors enabled nonparty elements to appear (?among) the liberal movement who later on expressed the wish to set up a party, but nothing has yet been accomplished in this respect. Therefore, at present the movement is only a parliamentary group.

Asked whether the problem that exists with Algeria is a factor for national reconciliation and whether there are groups or individuals who oppose unity and in case of [word indistinct] is it expected that these people will be included in a general amnesty, the prime minister said that there is unanimity on foreign policy and also on the policy being pursued toward Algeria. Some individuals who have adhered to different stands have been rejected by all. As for general amnesty, the reconciliation is complete; only a few who have made big mistakes remain in prison; they have (?no opinion of their own). They are individuals who are being manipulated and directed from outside and who embarked on subversive actions. [passage indistinct]

In connection with the Sahara and Algeria's activity in the international field, the prime minister was asked whether there is any development that causes anxiety to Morocco and what Morocco can do. Mr Ahmed Osman replied: Certainly, the situation is disturbing; but it must be put in its true framework. First of all we must make [word indistinct] clear we know what is meant by the so-called progressivism in many countries; the governments which are supporting Algeria are nothing more than puppets; an example of this is Benin. There are serious countries such as the Soviet Union, involved in the same field; but what would become of the Soviet Union if the same principles were applied to it? The issue of the Sahara, Mr Osman adds, must be placed [word indistinct], global level.

Africa is explosive in every direction. When Algeria takes upon itself the issue of the Sahara, it does so in accordance with [word indistinct] plan aimed at laying hands on the resources of the continent. Naturally, it is difficult for Morocco to confront this plan alone; therefore, it is important that the African countries analyze the situation specially after the events in Zaire, Angola and the Horn of Africa. There are several African countries which have begun to think about this. Morocco hopes that it will not be alone in the field.

Asked whether there was a group of moderates in the process of being established, the prime minister said that moderation is [words indistinct] I can call this group the group of wisemen because they do not resort to violence; they are becoming aware of their [word indistinct] and closing their ranks.

Asked whether Morocco is reconsidering its foreign policy and changing its traditional stand which is based on neutrality, Mr Osman said that that would be regarded as going back to the (?axis) of the history of Morocco, which is based on relations with Africa in the south and with Europe in the north. France and Spain, however, have become two important states to Morocco [as heard].

Asked his opinion regarding the U.S. reserved stand, the prime minister said: There is a U.S. caution which we find difficult to understand. We believe that the United States, in its capacity as a great power, cannot continue to be a spectator regarding the changes that are taking place in Africa. It is common knowledge that the United States experienced special problems and also experiences a vacuum in authority as a result of Watergate. This has caused it to be introverted; but we believe that the siutation in Africa concerns it. We hope that the United States will embark on a [word indistinct] analysis so that it can see the truth about what is happening in Africa.

The prime minister was asked if by that he meant the ambitions of the Soviet Union. He said: I do not condemn any [word indistinct] but I look for the hidden forces that are manipulating all this. He was asked about the Soviet Union practicing a kind of [word indistinct] in its cooperation with the Arab Maghreb countries, since it is supplying arms to Algeria, while it chose economic cooperation with Morocco. Do you not see contradiction in this? The prime minister said: We have ideal cooperation with the Soviet Union. We do not object to its relations with Algeria. But the Moroccan public is hurt by the fact that Algeria and its mercenaries, the POLISARIO, are armed with Soviet weapons.

Mr Ahmed Osman was asked whether there is a danger of an outbreak of war between Morocco and Algeria. He said: We hope that there will be no escalation. It seems difficult for Algeria to fight a war because its army and people have no (?reason to be party to this war). As for ourselves, we are mobilized; our army is fully prepared. But there is a deterrent force that prevents us from going to war; namely, the ties of fraternity which bind the Algerian people and our people. There is also our development policy; war will impede our development. There are many reasons that stop us from running after war. Generally speaking, this war can erupt at any time in view of the many incidents that are taking place.

Ahmed Osman was asked what reasons would prompt Morocco to play a principal role in the Middle East conflict. Replying, he said that Morocco is an Arab state which is more experienced in struggle and knows how to mobilize itself for battle at the appropriate time. Morocco also has an original viewpoint in (?analyzing) the problem and adopts a realistic attitude. The Moroccan community is one in which religions coexist and we have good relations with the Palestinians.

Asked whether his majesty the king played a role in (?bringing about) the meeting between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin, the prime minister said: "Yes, to some extent. His majesty made possible some preparatory meetings and in view of his majesty's strong relations with President as-Sadat, he encouraged him in his initiative [words indistinct]."

Regarding the visit to Morocco by a number of Jewish personalities from abroad and in particular from the United States and the reasons for these visits, the prime minister said: "Indeed these visits did occur and we hope they will multiply. It ought to be made clear that we have [word indistinct] and coexistence between Arabs and Jews."

Lastly the prime minister was asked about his view on the present situation in the Middle East. Replying he said: "We shall remain optimists. The initiative of President as-Sadat will yield results."

BRIEFS

MOROCCAN MINISTER TO PRAGUE--The Moroccan minister of commerce and industry, Abdelkamel Raghaye, left Morocco for Prague today for an official visit at the invitation of his Czechoslovak counterpart. He will sign an agreement there on the granting of a credit line amounting $50 million to Morocco and have talks aimed at developing economic, industrial and commercial cooperation. Trade between the two countries in 1976 totaled 73 million dirhams. Mr Raghaye is accompanied by a delegation including the director of foreign trade, the divisional head of the industry directorate, a representative of the industrial development office and a representative of the finance ministry.
[Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD]

BEGIN LETTER TO AS-SADAT REVIEWS EVENTS SINCE JERUSALEM

TA061324Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] The prime minister is apparently going to meet with roving U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton tomorrow.

Yesterday Mr. Begin sent President as-Sadat a reply to the letter from the Egyptian president handed to him by Atherton. The reply was sent through the communications facility of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem.

In his letter of reply the prime minister is treading in the footsteps of As-Sadat's letter and is trying to explain to the Egyptian President remarks and situations that have been made and developed between the two in the time since their meeting in Jerusalem. As-Sadat in his letter surveyed the progression of events since his visit, pointing to events and situations which, in his opinion, have disrupted the process of dialog.

In the reply, which runs several pages, Mr Begin describes developments from his point of view. The prime minister remarks that Egypt and Israel have in fact not begun holding real negotiations and he proposes to the Egyptian president that the peace process continue.

Authoritative sources characterized the prime minister's reply as a document reflecting total openness, a document inviting the Egyptian president to tighten the personal link with the prime minister in order to cooperate toward the establishment of peace in the region. These sources expressed the hope that in the wake of the exchange of letters the two leaders may meet again.

BEGIN SAID 'ADAMANT' ON INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242

TA060903Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpts] It would be "a waste of the U.S. President's precious time, and arid debate," if Jimmy Carter were to focus on the differing interpretations of UN Security Council Resolution 242 when he meets with Premier Menahem Begin next week, a well-placed source in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The prime minister was adamant, the source said, and quite unlikely to be moved from his position, that the resolution does not dictate any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

On the looming row over 242, the well-placed source said Israel's position should certainly not have come as a surprise to the U.S. It had been implicit in the Begin government's policy from the day it took office.

But the source conceded that the issue had come to the fore, and been spelt out in categorical and explicit terms, only in recent weeks, following a White House statement issued on February 8, immediately after As-Sadat's visit to Washington.

This statement spoke of the need for at least some Israeli pullback from the West Bank, stating pointedly that "Resolution 242 is applicable to all fronts of the conflict." Begin riposted at once, through American Ambassador Samuel Lewis, that that reading was unacceptable to Israel.

"Begin found it necessary to make this clear to Lewis," the source said. "But in fact it was clear to the Americans all along."

Israeli officials offer a number of varied legal arguments to back the government's position:

--That 242 does not specify withdrawal from each one of the "territories occupied in the recent conflict";
--That the West Bank was never under Jordanian sovereignty;
--That the 1967 war was a war of national self-defence; and
--That Israel is not ruling out a priori any West Bank territorial compromise: It is merely saying that 242 is unspecific, and reserving its position until there is a practical prospect of negotiations over the West Bank.

This last argument is advanced by Foreign Ministry sources, who cite Minister Moshe Dayan's assurances that any proposal by the Arabs for a territorial settlement would be studied "sincerely." However it is not echoed in prime ministerial quarters.

Government sources appear to hope that if Washington is convinced of the firmness of Israel's stand on 242 next week's summit talks will be channeled into other, less abrasive, directions.

Begin is plainly keen to get direct contacts with Egypt resumed. He told newsmen yesterday that the "spirit" of his exchange of letters with As-Sadat pointed in that direction. But the cabinet was careful to close no doors: It resolved that if direct talks were still inopportune the U.S. would be asked to continue its mediating role.

DAYAN: NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN 242, ISRAELI PLAN

TA061514Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The foreign minister says that in his view the cabinet announcement that it accepts Security Council Resolution 242 is still in force. There is no contradiction between Israel's peace program, including the issues of Judaed and Samaria and the Gaza Strip, and the significance [mashma'ut] of the Security Council resolution. He pointed out that it was known that the Security Council Resolution had various interpretations. Mr Dayan said this in reply to a question by MK Hayyim Corfu from the Likud.

YADIN COMMENTS ON INTERPRETATIONS OF 242

TA061847Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Now to the Knesset. Both in the Knesset corridors and in the assembly some of the factions were occupied in political discussions, in which the main topic was the question of the need for a change in Israel's position on Resolution 242. Here is our Knesset correspondent Razi Barqay on what was heard:

In the DMC faction, whose party platform speaks of a withdrawal on all fronts, members today demanded that a political debate be held on the matter of the interpretation of Resolution 242. The general feeling in the faction was that Israel's position on the resolution should not be changed, but the faction did not make a new decision on the matter in order not to harm the prime minister's trip to the United States. A few members of the Knesset recalled in the discussion that the DMC had committed itself to compromise on all sectors and one of the members of that Knesset said that it is important for President Carter to know that the Nation of Israel does not support a new interpretation of the resolution. After the debate we heard from the party's chairman, Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin, about his position: [begin recording]

Without any connection with the well-known DMC positions on both the matter of 242 and that of the political deadlock, for the moment we feel that there is an attempt here on the part of someone simply to mislead and distort the real argument, as though the real argument were whether 242 applies to all the fronts. On this our positions are fairly well known. The real argument that has continued all these years and continues today, whether 242 means returning to the 1967 borders with changes or without changes, that is the problem at the moment. That is the problem in the statement of intentions and that is the main problem. Therefore, one can argue this issue now or not. I think we should not get into the trap that someone is perhaps trying to set for the State of Israel, to get into an argument over theoretical interpretations. We should find out what everyone's position is on the basic problems.

[Barqay] One can speak about a trap they are trying to get us into, but the question is whether we have not actually already got into it.

[Yadin] I have not yet seen any definitive statement on this. I have heard people say all sorts of things. For the moment I say, objectively, let us assume that someone is trying to get us into a trap or someone has said something. I do not think that everyone, the entire country, has to get into this dance. I do not need to say what the position is, let us say, of this movement or another. Maybe one should say this, but after this is said, it is important that we remember, and this is the main problem--the central problem and the whole argument about the statement of intentions revolves around this and so on--do we agree with 242 which means a withdrawal to the 1967 lines, and self-determination and so on or not. This is the real argument. Nothing can change this; either from one side or the other. [end recording]

BEGIN SEES SETTLEMENTS AS NO OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS

TA061208Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the chairman of the Jewish Presidents' Conference, sent the prime minister, Menahem Begin, a telegram the end of last week, asking him to declare, on the eve of his arrival in Washington, that all settlement activity will be stopped during the period of the political negotiations.

Schindler explained that this is aimed at making it clear to the Americans that Israel is removing every possible obstacle on the way to the success of the negotiations.

In his reply Begin wrote Schindler that the government cannot disavow its policy and that the establishment of settlements should not be seen as an obstacle to the negotiations.

It has in the meantime become clear that the disagreement between Ministers Sharon and Weizman regarding the settlements has led to many repercussions in the United States and the communications media dedicate extensive space to the issue. It has also been learned that the prime minister, in a restricted forum, has expressed his dissatisfaction over this disagreement and dispute, which is a blow to the government's prestige.

CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVENES TO FEED BET EL SETTLERS

TA061614Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Following intervention by the chief of staff, the settlers in Bet El will continue to be helped with supplies of food and they will also be permitted to continue eating in the base's dining room until the Zionist Histadrut's Settlement Division builds a kitchen and a dining room for them. Our correspondent points out that the chief of staff intervened in the affair after the deputy commander of the base had informed the settlers that they would no longer be able to enjoy the IDF food services.

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON TRIP TO U.S. FOR TALKS

TA061318Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 78 pp 1, 6 TA

[By Eytan Haber, YEDI'OT AHARONOT special representative in the United States]

[Excerpt] In a talk with me on the way to New York the defense minister said: "I hope the Americans have the strength to change the decision to supply aircraft in a single package deal to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt."

Mr Weizman said: "I take a grave view of this deal, especially because we have been thrown together in one 'package' with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. I will try to call the attention of our friends, the Americans, to the seriousness inherent in this dangerous precedent. Similar and additional activity in the future may change the balance of power in the Middle East, and not in Israel's favor."

Question: Mr Weizman, what do you hope to bring back from the United States?

[Answer] This is my first visit to the United States as a defense minister. In Washington I will present our overall strategic defense concept. I will surely also present the problems of Israeli militlary procurement from the United States in the coming years. I have good reason to assume and to hope that we will reach an understanding and a common view of the developments. This is an important part of the trip. Another, no less important part, will be the attempt to explain Israel's position in the course of the peace negotiations as they are being conducted. I will explain the Israeli position so that it will be understood and also accepted by the U.S. administration. I have the feeling that there is a 'short circuit' between them and us on this matter lately. The proportions have been distorted. I will act to correct this. If I return to Israel after achieving a much greater understanding for our positions in the United States, this will be something.

Question: Do you see any chance for the resumption of the military talks in Cairo in the near future?

Answer: I very much hope that the military talks in Cairo will be resumed after the prime minister's trip to the United States. We shall spare no effort in order that this historic opportunity will not be missed and we shall not let the peace process die away.

Question: Is it correct to say that the settlements torpedo the talks?

Answer: In several cases hasty acts have been carried out, acts that have gained negative and unprecedented publicity, publicity unjustified relative to what has been carried out. The publications have certainly not contributed to the soundness of the negotiation process. Both parties have begun a historic process and it is incumbent on both, equally, to find a way toward a solution. We have proposed several solutions. The problem today is not the settlements but Judaea and Samaria.

Question: Your position on this question, Mr Weizman?

Answer: My position is clear-cut, like that of the entire government. A Palestinian state shall not be established in the West Bank. There are things from which it is impossible to move, whatever the cost. These are things lying at the heart of our convictions. King Husayn made several fatal mistakes in the past and he had better not make a mistake on this matter this time.

Question: How is it possible to stop the erosion in the positions of the U.S. administration and public opinion there?

Answer: By information, among other things, and not only by this. An incorrect policy cannot be properly explained. Mistakes have been made. We also made mistakes. However, we are far from believing that peace is impossible. I will present our positions to the heads of the administration, including President Carter, the public opinion makers and U.S. Jewry. I believe in the power of true facts and I believe in the power of the people who conduct the information campaign, in this case U.S. Jewry. In my opinion, the possibility of reaching peace in the Middle East will have a tremendous affect also on the nature of relations between U.S. Jewry and the State of Israel. If peace is indeed reached, there will no longer be a solidarity of U.S. Jewry with the State of Israel as a persecuted country. This will change. The motivation of the U.S. Jews will also change. We must begin to establish a new set of relations and priorities between the State of Israel and U.S. Jewry.

WEIZMAN REPORTEDLY THREATENS RESIGNATION OVER SETTLEMENTS

TA070716Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yo'el Marcus, HA'AREZ representative in the United States]

[Text] New York, 6 March (reported by telephone)--In an exchange of telegrams with Jerusalem Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman today threatened to end his visit in the United States and resign from the government if the development activity at An-Nabi Salih and Bet El is resumed. This was learned from informed circles. The crisis broke out after the defense minister had heard rumors that there is an intention to renew such activity.

In an earlier report it was said:

New York, 6 March (reported by telephone)--With the beginning of his talks on Wednesday (tomorrow) [8 March] in Washington, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will announce his support freezing new settlements and any activity with respect to the issue of settlements in the territories as long as the peace negotiations last. This was learned from informed sources.

Among the subjects the defense minister will raise here: receiving new technology for production in Israel or coproduction of parts for the F-16 and F-15; increasing the number of aircraft approved for Israel; increasing defense aid and removing the U.S. veto on the production [for sale abroad] of the Kfir.

In the context of his political-military visit, that will last 3 days, the announcement regarding the settlements may constitute the "pulling out of the thorn" in relations between Israel and the U.S. administration. Informed sources said that the defense minister is of the opinion that continued activity with respect to the issue of settlements when criticial problems for Israel are on the agenda concerning relations with the United States and Egypt is a grave mistake. In his talks here the defense minister will also raise the defense aspects of a possible settlement.

Among other things, the defense minister, in his talk with Secretary of Defense Brown, will dwell on the great importance he attaches to maintaining military control over the West Bank, control which has, in his opinion, supreme value even in a peace settlement. Together with his announcement about the need to freeze the settlements Mr Weizman will explain that the settlements are not a single unit with a single nature, and that some of them meet defense needs.

In the sphere of defense relations with the United States Mr Weizman will ask that the number of aircraft to be provided Israel be increased. He will discuss delivery dates or will at least ask for a commitment that a similar number of aircraft be supplied in the mid-80's. He will also ask for an increase in U.S. military aid to $1.5 billion, explaining that this sum in fact constitutes the same level of aid as decided on 4 years ago.

On the matter of Kfir aircraft Mr Weizman will ask for the removal of the U.S. limitations on exporting it to countries regarding which no political reservations exist so that the Kfir will be able to compete under fair conditions, inasmuch as this aircraft is one of the cheapest of its kind in the world and demand for it could help Israel.

Mr Weizman stayed in New York today to hold private consultations. He will arrive in Washington on Tuesday afternoon (today).

Weizman Denies Threat

TA070958Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif and 'Ido Dissentshik]

[Excerpt] "I did not threaten to resign; this is not my style. However, I did put my foot down rather forcefully and I think I was right." Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who is currently staying in New York, said this yesterday to MA'ARIV. He added: "It is not my custom to resign just as I do not like others to threaten me with a resignation."

Mr Weizman had very sharp words to say on the matter of settlements.

Despite this statement by the defense minister, political circles in Jerusalem confirmed this morning that in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Begin the defense minister had indeed threatened to resign. These circles note, moreover, that this is not the first time that the defense minister has made such a threat during the past few days.

At the same time these circles report that Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon informed the prime minister of his desire to resign from his post as the chairman of the Interministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs following the use of the army by Defense Minister Weizman to prevent settlement at Qadesh Barne'a.

Mr Begin asked Mr Sharon to take back his decision and it has been learned that Mr Sharon has complied.

The prime minister's office stated this morning that government matters are decided according to discussions within the government and with the approval of all or most of its members and not according to threats from this or that minister.

In his talk with MA'ARIV Mr Weizman remarked that the settlements in Bet El and An-Nabi Salih are not alike. At Bet El there are settlers in a military camp. These settlers wanted to take areas earmarked for an IDF firing and training range. The army needs these areas, Weizman pointed out. A committee is examining the matter now and will decide whether the settlers can settle in these areas.

Weizman ordered the settlers, through the military governor in the region, to wait patiently until a place is found for them and noted that he will not interfere with the army's needs.

Speaking about An-Nabi Salih, he confirmed that this is one of the sites designated for settlers (inside a military camp) but that he thought that nothing should be done before the return of Prime Minister Begin, Foreign Minister Dayan and himself from Washington.

"I insisted that no (work by) tractors or any other work be started. This was not the appropriate time for the establishment of a new settlement, even if it is within the boundaries of a military camp."

WEIZMAN RESIGNATION COULD INDUCE OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT

TA070909Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Senior circles in the finance ministry have told our correspondent that if the defense minister resigns against the background of the affair of the Israeli settlements, his resignation from the government would not be the only one. Our correspondent assesses that this implies that in such an event the minister of finance would also submit his resignation and it is possible that other ministers would join him.

PRESSURE TO DROP MAPAM FROM LABOR PARTY REPORTED

TA031600Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Mar 78 p 3 (supplement) TA

[By Bina Barzel and Avner Tavor in the "Political Week" column]

[Text] In a secret meeting last week between Shim'on Peres and seven MK's from the DMC, the latter put forward the proposal that Peres should join the coalition at the head of his party. They proposed to Peres that he should not make his joining dependent on portfolios or any sort of guarantees, but that he should enter the cabinet with one sole objective--that of, together with the DMC, influencing political and economic moves.

Peres rejected the proposal entirely. He said that he is not sure that Begin is at all interested in such a partnership (in which he may possibly have been interested in the past). He added that he has internal problems in his party.

The problems referred to by Peres have no connection with the proposal put forward by the DMC members, and their implications are likely to change the political map entirely. The reference is to the increasing pressure of various elements within the Labor Party to dissolve the partnership with MAPAM and get rid of what appears to them to be a superfluous and harmful burden.

Those at the head of the crusade against MAPAM are members of the Moshav Movement who have an ideological and practical account to settle with MAPAM. They are being supported by growing blocs in the Labor Party, among them the Tel Aviv division, headed by Eliyahu Shpeizer. There are those who regard the elimination of MAPAM from the Labor Party's path as a move which will achieve a much greater objective than just joining the cabinet. One of the heads of the Moshav Movement expressed himself this week in roughly these words: "Dissolve the Alinement and make a little split--and the road is paved for the establishment of a new deployment led by Peres and Dayan that would be an alternative to the Likud." The "little split" he referred to had to do with the possibility that the Labor Party without MAPAM would be able to join together all the members of La'am and the DMC who would, right from the first, be the largest faction in the Knesset, having six ministers in the current cabinet.

Members of the Moshav Movement and their supporters do not conceal the fact that this is their objective. This week they even held a meeting with Moshe Dayan, ostensibly to receive a "political report," but only the naive will believe that they only dealt with political problems.

Peres is not enthusiastic about this plan. As an experienced politician he sees not only the chances, but also the risks. Faced with this plan, their full personal and moral force would be used by such personalities as Golda ("Golda's nyet still scares Peres"--was heard this week in the Labor Party) Rabinowitz and also the heads of the Kibbutz Hame'uhad and the Ihud Heqevuzot Veha Kibbutzim.

Peres cannot ignore the fact that in any struggle that takes place Rabin will stand against him and it is difficult to know where the struggle would lead. Peres, and with him those who are opposed to the above plan, are trying to put off a confrontation which appears to be unavoidable--maybe until after Peres' return from his visit to Romania and maybe until after a clarification in the political situation with Begin's return from Washington. In any case it appears that the struggle over the future and the image of the Labor Party is not far off.

WEST BANK DISTRIBUTION OF NEW ARABIC WEEKLY BANNED

TA031208Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The military authorities in Judaea and Samaria have ordered the owners of the new Arabic paper AT-TALIYAH to cease distribution of the paper in Judaea and Samaria because they do not have a permit. The military governor of Hebron also informed news vendors that he would close their shops if they distribute it next week. The editors of the paper are known to be communists. The managing editor is Bashir Barghuthi, a well-known Marxist from Ramallah.

Attorney Elyas Khuri who represents AT-TALIYAH told our correspondent Arye Gus that he knows of other East Jerusalem papers distributed without a permit. He said that he will now turn to the military authorities, asking for a permit and if his appeal is turned down he will protest to the supreme court.

Our correspondent notes that distribution of the RAKAH organ in Arabic, AL-ITTIHAD, in Judaea and Samaria is also forbidden.

PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY SAID INCREASING AMONG ISRAELI ARABS

TA031424Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 78 p 12 TA

[By Yuehuda Ari'el]

[Text] Signs of nationalist organization activity among the Arab community, with the aim of supporting the PLO and establishing a PLO-type Palestinian state have been noticeable in recent months in villages and Arab centers in the north of the country. The first fruits are appearing in the form of leaflets distributed this week.

The leaflets say, among other things: "Only the PLO is the real, true, legal and sole representative of the Arab Palestinian nation and it has no substitute. The Arabs of Israel and the territories must unite in order to stand firm against any attempt by Israeli or Egyptian policy, or their joint policy, to split them."

The leaflet is signed by more than 50 important people in the Galilee, Nazareth, Shefar'am, 'Akko and the villages of the triangle, among them many academics. Civil servants are also among those who signed the leaflet.

The leaflet is now being examined to see whether, from the legal aspect, it is an incitement. If it emerges that it is an incitement, it will be possible to put those signing it on criminal trial. The results would be particularly grave.

Many of those signing the leaflet are people who received their education in the State of Israel and were considered by various Jewish parties to be loyal to the state.

The leaflet says further: "We are an inseparable part of the Arab Palestinian nation. We wish to emphasize that any solution for our nation must include international recognition, with guarantees, of the clear national identity of the Palestinians who live in Israel. Not only our right to remain in our homeland, but all our lands must be returned, all our property, all our villages and sacred property everywhere. All these were expropriated from us and we have the right to enjoy this, our property, just as we are entitled to our civil, political rights and our religious and cultural rights in our own country."

As the HA'AREZ correspondent reports, "closed-door debates" are also being held among representatives of various villages, about the character of 31 March, called "land day" in the villages. While a section of the extremists is trying to "perpetuate" and repeat the events of 2 years ago, there are others, no less extreme, who want to keep a low profile and avoid any possibility of extremism in relations with the authorities--with the clear aim of saving extremist activity for when it is needed on a national scale "if there are international decisions against the Arabs of Palestine."

Nevertheless, the two streams have decided that, with the approach of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the state, local activity should be held in order that the country's Jews "understand that even a generation of years will not lead the Arabs of Israel to agree to the existence of the Jewish state."

TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON SEEN AS GRAVE

TA061450Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Units of the terrorist organization As-Sa'iqah, which is supported by the Syrian Army, have been deployed in various regions in southern Lebanon and have taken up posts around the Christian enclaves and near the border with Israel. According to an Israeli source, the strength of the units amounts to two battalions.

The terrorist units, which are operated by Syria, have intensified their entry into southern Lebanon lately and in addition to the village of Marun ar-Ra's, which controls the central section of the border with Israel and is only about 2 km from the Moshav of Avivim and Kibbutz Yir'on, the terrorists' units have taken up other posts.

Christian elements in both enclaves fear that Israel no longer helps them as it has in the past. These elements remarked that the developments in the region are aimed at extending the areas controlled by the terrorists and at reinforcing the units loyal to the Syrians so that if a conflagaration develops the Syrians will be able to control southern Lebanon.

There are Israeli elements that view these developments as being very grave. They assume that Syria is standing behind these developments and that it wants to initiate military activity in the region and put an end to the calm.

IRAQI INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD061005Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Within a week after the visit to Iraq by our country's foreign minister, the director general of Iraq's Interior Ministry, heading a delegation, arrived in Teheran. He said that the visit takes place within the framework of Iranian-Iraqi relations and the protocol governing the two countries' border demarcations.

RASTAKHIZ OFFICIAL ANALYZES ROLE OF PARTY

LD030956Y Teheran PARS in English 2330 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, 2 March, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Rastakhiz Party was founded on March 2, 1975, as the only political party in Iran. On the occasion of the third anniversary of the Rastakhiz Party Mahmud Ja'farian, the deputy secretary general of the Rastakhiz Party and the managing director of PARS NEWS AGENCY, outlined the reasons for the establishment of the Rastakhiz Party, the structure and the functions of the party, and its mission in Iran.

The need for the establishment of the Rastakhiz Party: The rapid economic development in Iran during the past 3 years and the shah-people revolution have profoundly transformed the economic, political, and social situation of the country. Various industries were established in cities, laws were made for the protection of workers, the farmers were freed from slavery through land reform and the whole country moved towards a new phase of development. One of the consequences of this evolution was the transformation in the social structure of society. As cities rapidly developed, the rural population moved from rural to urban areas at an uncontrolled pace. Higher salaries in cities, the development of roads facilitating travel, and the various attractions of the cities, all contributed to this rural exodus. Alongside the rural immigrants who invaded the city, seeking new jobs and facing the problems of adaptation, were the workers and the middle classes whose needs and expectations rose rapidly as their financial and overall situation improved. The revolution and the economic [as received] of Iran thus introduced a completely new situation in Iran. It resulted in the separation of each Iranian from his social group on the one hand and a rise in his welfare, education, and economic situation on the other hand.

In such an environment, where economic democracy reigned and drastic structural changes had occurred, the need to establish political democracy and to adapt the political structure to the new needs was greatly felt. The modern Iranian of the era of the revolution had to be guided and helped to adapt to the changes. This was why the Rastakhiz Party was established three years ago. Its role was to form the Iranians of the post-revolutionary period and to facilitate the move toward the final goal of the great civilization, as described by his Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr in his latest book "Towards the Great Civilization".

The Rastakhiz Party is the voice of the whole nation, its only limits are the three basic principles that have to be respected at all times, namely, the monarchy, the constitution, and the shah-people revolution. All Iranians who are above 18 years of age and who have an identity card can participate in party activities through student groups affiliated to the Rastakhiz Party. Thus, unlike one-party systems in other countries where only an elite can become member of the party, the system in Iran encompasses the whole nation. Rastakhiz Party members are free to disagree with each other, to express their opinions and to discuss extensively the ways in which the general policies of the country are implemented.

In other words, as long as the three ruling principles of monarchy, the constitution, and the shah-people revolution are respected, conflicting views and differing opinions on ways and means of implementing the country's policies are allowed. The Rastakhiz Party in no way limits the freedom of individuals, who may travel, invest in Iran or abroad and generally lead a free social and economic life. All individuals are also free to develop any idea as long as it conforms with the three general principles mentioned above. As these three principles are very general; they leave room for a variety of individual positions and opinions. This is the political democracy of the Rastakhiz Party which is being implemented in Iran at present. Contrary to one-party systems in some countries where the party imposes a way of thinking and a whole system of cultural values, the Rastakhiz Party leaves a great deal of freedom to the individual. There is a kind of link between Iranians that does not exist in other countries. Iranians all agree with the principles of the revolution and only have conflicting views on the ways to best implement them. Groups within the party evaluate the various means and possibilities for achieving the country's goals and discuss these.

The party gets its leadership from the people and it gives it back to the people. All party members can express their ideas and give suggestions during party meetings at the cell level. These opinions and suggestions move from the lowest level to the highest level and become party decisions. The decision-making process moves from the bottom to the top and not the other way round. Suggestions from party cells concerning provincial affairs are referred to city committees and then to provincial committees, where they are evaluated and studied and then implemented by provincial executive bodies. Suggestions concerning national affairs are referred to the Political Bureau, which informs the government of them and pushes for their implementation.

In other words, each party member plays an active role in deciding the ways and means of implementing the policies laid out by the government and can influence the executive's decision making. The party's Political Bureau consists of members chosen from the 55-member Executive Board of the Rastakhiz Party. The board members are themselves chosen from the members of the Rastakhiz Administrative Council, which is formed of representatives of party councils in Teheran and the provinces. Thus a real democratic system reigns within the party. It is the people who decide what and how things should be done. The party also controls legislative procedure. All law bills have to get the party's approval before being presented to Parliament. The Rastakhiz Party, the representative of each and every Iranian, is thus the voice of the people and an instrument in the hand of the nation aimed at moving towards the progress of Iran.

A few years ago during a visit to London His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr said the West has to think about new ways to safeguard its freedoms and to search a new democracy. Some didn't take these words very seriously at that time but the changes and the events that have occurred in the meantime have proved the statement to be of great value. Many Western democracies now face the danger of imperialist communism that is infiltrating democratic systems more and more. The need for a drastic reconsideration of values is thus necessary if these countries want to stay free and safeguard their democratic gains.

The international situation is such that nations are not only obliged to establish democratic systems in their respective countries but also find ways to preserve them. This cannot be done with Western methods through a system where many parties struggle to win power, sometimes by telling lies and giving utopian promises. The West is gradually realizing this and is trying to find new methods. In the 19th century economic liberalism reigned in the West.

"Laissez faire" and "laissez passer" were the principles that directed the system and many hailed this liberalism that was based on total freedom. Nations rebelled against this "economic liberalism", which did not take into consideration the rights of the workers and the interests of the people. Necessary limits to the "laissez faire", "laissez passer" were thus introduced and social laws and state controls of all sorts made the system more human for individuals. Therefore, although "liberalism" was limited, it was in the interests of the people and designed to safeguard the basic economic values that reigned in the free West. The same has to happen to the political system. A new equilibrium has to be reached between democratic principles and freedom of opinion and dialogue and limitations that aimed at safeguarding these very principles and freedoms. The political democracy implemented in Iran since the establishment of the Rastakhiz Party aims at such an equilibrium.

Europe experienced its renaissance 500 years ago while Iran's renaissance has started in the last 50 years. Drastic transformations have happened in the past decades and it is normal that rapid changes are accompanied by problems of inadaptability and many difficulties. While the situation in Iran has changed greatly, the value system is still that of the past and this has to change too. The Iranian worker was content 40 years ago when he didn't have anything and he is dissatisfied now that he has a lot. People's expectations have risen so much that the government cannot deal with them. The Iranian, who still has the value systems of a century ago, has to be educated and transformed into an Iranian of the era of the revolution. This takes time and a lot of effort and the Rastakhiz Party can play an important role in accelerating the process. By enabling the people to participate actively in the political life of the country and by giving the nation the necessary political education, the Rastakhiz Party prepares Iranians for the great civilization. People are in constant with the decision-making process thanks to the party and Dr. Ameli, one of the deputy secretaries of the Rastakhiz Party, who is in charge of maintaining the contact with the people. Suggestions and individual opinions will be gathered by Dr. Ameli and used for the determination of party policies. At the same time educational programs and plans for the development of public political awareness are underway.

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNORS GENERAL--Interior Minister Assadollah Asadollah Nassr-Esfahani was received in audience by the shah today. During the audience the interior minister introduced five new governors general as follows: General Shafaqat, eastern Azerbaijan governor general; Mr Reza Sadaqiani, governor general of the Central Province; Mr Hushang Amir-Behzadi, governor general of Zanjan; Mr Hasan Eslami, governor general of Sistan-and-Baluchestan Province; and Mr Eqbal Eqbal-Rad, governor general of Lorestan. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ZIA LEAVES FOR ABU DHABI 6 MARCH

BK0609O4Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Zia left Dacca this afternoon for Abu Dhabi on a 3-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates. He is accompanied, among others, by his advisers on foreign affairs and petroleum and mineral resources, the foreign secretary and the chairman of the Rajshahi municipality.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, President Zia said it is primarily a goodwill visit. He is carrying with him the good wishes of the people of Bangladesh for the people of the UAE. He said Bangladesh and the UAE have excellent relations and these will continue.

The president said during his stay he will discuss at length bilateral issues, particularly the possibility of increased economic cooperation. He said the UAE has been giving us substantial assistance and there is the bright prospect of getting additional assistance for our economic development.

President Zia said the possibility of setting up a joint economic commission will also come up for discussions during formal talks with the UAE's Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was seen off at the airport, among others, by Vice President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, members of his Council of Advisers, heads of diplomatic missions and high-ranking civil and military officials.

POLITICAL LEADERS DEMAND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY

BK0211402 Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 24 Feb 78 p 1 BK

[By our own correspondent]

[Excerpts] National political leaders have called upon various parties and people to give up their petty quarrels over the leadership issue and to forge unity on the basis of a program advocating the restoration of the people's democratic rights.

At a meeting organized on Thursday [23 February] afternoon by the National Awami Party-Bhashani group, the leaders of various political parties called for unity among all democratic and progressive forces in support of the demands for the establishment of rule of law, restoration of basic human rights and repeal of the fourth amendment of the constitution. They said that there is no room for any division or conflict among themselves or for compromise with the government on these demands. If the government does not exercise good sense, we will have no other alternative but to launch a united campaign in support of these minimum demands.

They said: We do not want any kind of guided democracy. If the present government fails to immediately restore to the people their full democratic rights, then it and not the political parties will be held responsible for the situation that will be created in the country.

Attaur Rahman Khan, the most venerable politician in the country, said that keeping in view our objective of securing democratic rights for the people, we have cooperated with the present government. But the government made the great error of mistaking our cooperative attitude for weakness.

He said: In the first place we made a mistake by cooperating with this government. That was our weakness. We cooperated with it not with any kind of illusion but with the objective of restoring the democratic rights of the people. The people and the politicians of the country have the capacity to give a fitting message to the government, which, taking the cooperative stance of the politicians as a weakness, initiated a malicious propaganda campaign against them.

Attaur Rahman said: We do not want a presidential form of government. The people of the country are accustomed to the parliamentary system, and we will not agree to anything but that system. There can be no compromise on the question of the sovereignty of parliament. Although it is not acceptable in a parliamentary system, we would still proceed with the idea of allocating some power to the president. But we cannot allow the president to be all powerful and parliament only a rubber stamp. He said: If President Ziaur Rahman accepts the sovereignty of parliament, we would have no objection to making him president for 5 years and vesting him with some power. But we cannot accept him as president in a presidential form of government. However, we would not object if Ziaur comes to power through the parliamentary electoral process.

Reiterating demands for the immediate resumption of full-scale political activities and the restoration of the people's democratic rights, the old public leader said that the sooner human rights are returned to the people the better it will be for everyone.

Protesting against the activities and statements of the presidential advisers, Attaur Rahman Khan said that these people are ruining the country. We can clearly see that they are leading the country down the wrong path. We have tried to make the government realize it, but no one has paid any attention. Had the government used the experiences of the politicians and accepted our suggestion, these advisers would not have made such serious mistakes. He said that it should be known to all that only the politicians and political parties, not the advisers, can fill the political vacuum in the country.

(Ret) Gen Mohammad Ataul Mani Osmani, commander in chief of the 1971 liberation movement [president of the Janata Party and former minister in the Mujibur Rahman cabinet], called upon the political leaders in the country to unite on the basis of a clear-cut policy. He said that they will not be unfaithful to the public and will not compromise on the question of restoration of the people's rights. He said that all democratic political forces irrespective of their party affiliation should unite on the basis of the minimum demands: establishment of rule of law; an independent judiciary; restoration to the people of their fundamental rights; and repeal of the fourth amendment of the constitution.

The leader of the Janata Party said that there are no human rights in the country. The people do not have the right of free speech and the press and the judiciary has no freedom. Did we fight the liberation war for this? He said that the awakening of the people on 21 February [day in 1952 when the people of former East Pakistan revolted to demand that Bengali be made one of the official national languages of Pakistan] was an inspiration to the 1971 liberation war which was a fight against injustice and for the restoration of the people's full democratic rights and the establishment of a society free from exploitation.

Vigorously opposing the presidential system of government, General Osmani said that the question of adhering to the parliamentary system of administration is a "settled issue." He said that before his fall, Ayub Khan admitted that the presidential system was obsolete in this country.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, general secretary of the United People's Party, said: If the minimum demands of the people, including the restoration of their democratic rights, are not accepted by the government, we will start an uncompromising struggle along with other patriotic and democratic political parties in the country. If the government does not keep its pledges, the only path left for the patriotic and progressive forces is struggle.

Mrs Amena Begum, leader of the Bangladesh Jatiya Dal, said: We are still hoping that the government will exercise good sense. The activities of the presidential advisers, extreme corruption and the rise in the prices of commodities have adversely affected the life of the people. Not only the politicians, but everyone in the country is agitated. We do not want the government to push us toward a struggle, but the country is moving in such a direction that it is the only path left for us.

INDIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON AFGAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

BK061030Y Delhi ISI in English 0842 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] At the invitation of the president of India, Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Mohammad Daud, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid a state visit to India from 3-5 March 1978.

The president of Afghanistan was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome by the government and people of India, reflecting the traditional fraternal ties between the two countries and the earnest desires of the two peoples to reaffirm their friendship and consolidate and expand the areas of cooperation between them in all fields.

The president of Afghanistan held extensive and wide-ranging talks with Morarji Desai, prime minister of India. The president was assisted by Professor Wafiyyollah Sam'i, minister of justice; Mohammad Khan Jalallar, minister of commerce; Wahid Abdollah, minister in charge for foreign affairs; Abdul Samad Ghaus, deputy minister for political affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Hamidollah Enayat Seraj, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi; Abdul Ali Saluaiman, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohammad Oul Jahangiri, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohammad Seddique Saljooqh, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohammad Mirza Camah, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Abdul Ahad Nasser Ziayee, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mohammad Yaha Maroofi, director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The prime minister was assisted by Charan Singh, minister of home affairs; Jagjivan Ram, minister of defence; Atal Bihari Vajpayee, minister of external affairs; Sikandar Bakht, minister of works and housing; Mohan Dharia, minister of commerce, George Fernandes, minister of industry; J.S. Mehta, foreign secretary; V. K. Ahuja, secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; R. D. Thapar, commerce secretary; S. K. Singh, ambassador of India, Kabul; N. P. Jain, joint secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Doctor I. P. Singh, joint secretary; S. V. Purushottam, joint secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and R. K. Jerath, joint secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The discussions covered matters of international and regional significance as well as bilateral cooperation. The two sides expressed complete satisfaction at the progress of their bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields and decided to explore further avenues for consolidating and enlarging them. The discussions, which were held in an atmosphere of amity and goodwill, revealed a close identity of views on various subjects reflecting the deep understanding which has existed between the two countries and their leaders.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and their belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence and the solution of international disputes through peaceful means without the use of force or threat to use force, and mutual respect on the basis of sovereignty, equality and non-interference.

The president of Afghanistan and the prime minister of India stressed the abiding validity of the policy of nonalignment, the need for strict adherence to its fundamental principles, and its role in promoting understanding among nations as reiterated at the conference of foreign ministers of the coordinating bureau of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi in April 1977. Both sides felt that the forthcoming conference of the foreign ministers of the coordinating bureau of the nonaligned countries in Kabul from 6-11 May 1978 should provide a useful and timely opportunity for the nonaligned movement to reinforce its unity and solidarity and take appropriate initiatives for promoting world peace and cooperation. The two sides agreed that mutually beneficial technical and economic cooperation amongst nonaligned states based on the concept of self reliance should be promoted with greater vigour.

The prime minister of India explained the furtherprogress in the normalisation of relations amongst the countries of the subcontinent. The president of Afghanistan welcomed these developments. Both sides recognised that the promotion of trust and cooperation amongst countries in South Asia would reinforce the search for peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The two sides agreed that the present situation in the Middle East is potentially dangerous. They favoured a just settlement of this problem based on the total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, including the right to establish their own national state. While expressing the hope that efforts aimed at reconvening the Geneva peace conference would succeed, the two sides deplored that Israel has not complied with United Nations resolutions and was in fact flouting them through actions like the illegal creation of new Israeli settlements in the illegally occupied area.

The two sides viewed with concern the current conflict in the Horn of Africa and are of the view that the continuance of the dispute would invite increased great power rivalry in the region. They expressed the view that a political solution to the problem should be found within the framework of the OAU.

The two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of southern Africa who are struggling for their rights against racialism, colonialism and exploitation. They pledged their full support to the oppressed people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for liberty, equality and their legitimate political and human rights.

They called upon the international community to work earnestly for general and complete disarmament and, in particular, the elimination of nuclear weapons. The two sides expressed their fervent hope that the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will succeed in evolving a time-bound programme for nuclear disarmament and measures to curb the arms race, thus releasing valuable resources for accelerated development activities, particularly in developing countries.

The president of Afghanistan and the prime minister of India surveyed the situation in the Indian Ocean region. Two sides urged the major powers and maritime users fully to cooperate with littoral and hinterland states in achieving the objective of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

The two sides reviewed the international economic situation as it directly affected the developing countries. They called upon developed countries to base their economic relations with the developing countries on an equitable and just basis with a view to bringing about the early establishment of a new international economic order. They urged that the international community should also adopt urgent measures to enable the most seriously affected developing countries to overcome their present difficulties and to sustain the momentum of their development. The two sides, recognising the particular problems and the special needs of the developing landlocked states resulting from their disadvantageous geographical location, expressed the desire that measures in favour of these countries be implemented expeditiously. The two sides expressed the hope that the UN Committee of the Whole, established at 32d session of the UN General Assembly, will be able to provide concrete directives to the north-south dialogue and accelerate the solution of many outstanding international economic issues of particular concern to the developing countries.

The two sides reviewed the pace of economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries and noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been made in these fields. They agreed upon programmes to strengthen and widen further areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed to continue close contacts at different levels in order to exchange views so as to strengthen further their close relationship and to expand their cooperation in all fields.

The president of Afghanistan expressed their sincere thanks for the cordial hospitality and warm reception extended to him and members of his delegation by the government and people of India. The president of Afghanistan extended cordial invitations to the president and prime minister of India to visit Afghanistan. The invitations were accepted with pleasure. The dates for these visits will be decided later.

VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG CONCLUDES VISIT

For details of the activities and the presumed text of the joint communique issued on the visit of the Vietnamese premier, Pham Van Dong, as carried by VNA, see the Vietnam section of the 6 March issue of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

GDR PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CONTINUES VISIT

LD040058Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1352 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New Delhi--Friendly meetings and talks promoting the relations between both peoples dominated the third day of the official visit to India by a GDR People's Chamber delegation led by Horst Sindermann. On Friday morning the GDR deputies met representatives of the India-GDR Friendship Society.

Following a talk with Minister for Labor and Parliamentary Affairs Ravinda Varma, Horst Sindermann met the chairman of the upper house, B.D. Jatti. During the exchange with Jatti, who is also Indian vice president, the value of the friendly contacts between both parliaments to the relations between the GDR and India was underlined.

Horst Sindermann told journalists after the meeting that the 3 days of their Indian visit spent in New Delhi has been most fruitful and useful and fully within the purport of the GDR delegation. For him the most important result was the great accord between the GDR and India on the question of the maintenance of peace and disarmament. Together with the GDR, India sees this as the major world political problem of the present.

Both states ascribed, therefore, great importance to the coming special UN General Assembly. In the talks with GDR journalists and also in an interview on Indian television, the People's Chamber president stressed the good relations between India and the GDR, which are based on a solid treaty and which primarily in the economic sphere can be further developed.

Horst Sindermann gave a dinner on Friday evening in honor of the speaker of the Lok Sabha, K.S. Hedge.

Agreements Signed

LD040052Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1417 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New Delhi--Agreements on further cooperation between the GDR and India in science, education and culture were signed in New Delhi on Friday. The two documents envisage an expansion of cooperation in university and general education, as well as an exchange of artists, ensembles and exhibitions.

Within the framework of the cultural agreement between the GDR and India a plan of cultural and scientific cooperation for 1978-79 was signed. A 5-year protocol on the continuation of scientific cooperation between the GDR Ministry for Higher and Vocational Education and the Indian Institute for Foreign Languages in Hyderabad was also agreed upon.

NEPAL

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN KATMANDU 3 MAR

BK031611Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Yang-uk, called on Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista and held talks for about an hour and a half in Katmandu today. Emerging from the talks the vice president told the press that the talks mainly concentrated on matters of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Mr Bista said he acquainted the visiting guest with the situation obtaining in the region and added that the feeling of growing cooperation prevailing among the countries in the region was helpful for (?each) country in the region.

Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista added that efforts have been made to strengthen relations among the countries in the region.

Mr Bista said that in the talks the Nepalese side acquainted the visiting di/nitary with the validity and usefulness of the nonalined movement along with the need for thrashing out problems between members of the nonalined movement.

The two sides, besides agreeing to further strengthen the economic ties between the two countries, also agreed to find statutory ways and means to [words indistinct] during the discussion between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal, Finançe Minister Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, the foreign secretary, and other high officials represented the Nepalese side in the talks.

Minister of Finance Mr Kim Kyong-yon, vice minister of foreign affairs, Mr (Kim Yong-yu); Ambassador Mr So Chong-kuk, and Director of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Mr (Yu Ing-kong) represented the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the talks.

Vice President Mr Kang Yang-uk signed the visitors book at the Narayanhity Royal Palace later today.

Earlier on arrival at the Tribhuvan Airport this morning at the start of the 6-day official visit to Nepal, Vice President Mr Kang Yang-uk was greeted by Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista. Afterward Mr Kang went to the special dais at the airport and inspected a guard of honor presented by a contingent of the Royal Nepal Army. Earlier he was garlanded by a colorfully attired panchya kanya [girl]. The national anthems of Nepal and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were also played on the occasion. Then the North Korean vice president acknowledged the greetings of the chief justice, National Panchayat chairman, National (? Raj Sabha) Standing Committee chairman, ministers and other distinguished persons.

Talks Begin

BK041552Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista today called on the vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Yang-uk, at the royal guest house in Katmandu. Vice President Kang later paid homage to the martyrs by placing a wreath at the martyr's memorial. He also visited Hanuman Dhoka [ancestral palace], the Royal Botanical Gardens [words indistinct] during the day.

Finance Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr Kim Kyong-yon called on the minister of finance, Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, and held talks with him for about 2 hours in Katmandu this afternoon. After the talks, Mr Kim said the two sides agreed to exchange delegations for further expanding economic relations between the two countries. He said since both Nepal and North Korea were members of the nonalined movement and both cherish self-reliance, there could be no reason why the two countries could not cooperate with each other for mutual benefit.

Finance Minister Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa said that Nepal and North Korea could develop relations as an example of the unity and oneness of feeling among countries of the Third World. He said bilateral relations could also be developed for augmenting the (? trade volume), for mobilizing agriculture and for industrial development. Dr Thapa said that during the talks he acquainted the finance minister of the DPRK [words indistinct] where the two countries could cooperate in the exchange of know-how and equipment needed for their (? development of trade).

Kang Yang-uk Received by King

BK051532Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] His majesty the king received in audience the vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Yang-uk, at the (? official) royal camp this afternoon. Present on the occasion was Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista. Also present during the audience were Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal; Finance Minister of the DPRK Mr Kim Kyong-yon; Minister of State for General Administration Mr Shri Bhadra Sharma; Ambassador of the DPRK Mr So Chong-kuk; and Foreign Secretary Mr Uddav Deo Bhatta.

Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal and Finance Minister or Bhekh Bahadur Thapa separately called on the vice president of the DPRK, Mr Kang Yang-uk, at the official royal guest house in Katmandu today. The finance minister of the DPRK, Mr Kim Kyong-yon, had talks with Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal this afternoon.

PAKISTAN

AFGAN PRESIDENT DAUD BEGINS PAKISTAN VISIT 5 MAR

BK050834Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Afghanistan's President Sardar Mohammad Daud was accorded a very warm welcome on his arrival in Islamabad this morning on a 4-day state visit to Pakistan.

President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry and Chief of Army Staff and Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq welcomed him at the airport. A 21-gun salute greeted the arrival of the Afgan president. Big balloons imprinted with Pakistani-Afgan friendship slogans were released in the air on the occasion. Two small children presented bouquets to the distinguished guest. A 17-member entourage, including the minister in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Wahid Abdollah, is accompanying the Afgan president.

President Mohammad Daud will call on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry this afternoon. The Pakistani president will pay a return call sometime later today. Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq is also scheduled to meet with the Afgan president today.

The first round of talks between Chief Martial Law Administrator and head of government Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and President Mohammad Daud is also scheduled for (?this evening). The Pakistani president is hosting a banquet in honor of President Daud tonight.

Another important engagement of President Mohammad Daud in Islamabad is his meeting with Pakistan political leaders at a reception. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq will host this reception tomorrow.

Meets With Haq Leaders

BK061530Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Daud of Afghanistan and Chief of Army Staff and Chief Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq held another round of formal talks lasting an hour and half in Rawalpindi today. These were in continuation of yesterday's meeting which lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes.

After the talks today, President Mohammad Daud received political leaders in small groups. They were Maulana Mufti Mahmud, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mian Tufail Mohammad, Prof Ghaodor Ahmed, Pir Saheb Pagaro, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazhari, Mr Abdul Wali Khan, Chaudhry Zahur Elahi, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, Mr Attaullah Mengal, Mr Ghaush Baksh Bizenjo, Mr Khair Baksh Marri, Maulana Kauser Niazi, Mr Mir Afzal Khan, Mr Aslam Khattack, Mr Yusuf Khattack, Kazi Fazlullah, Mr Osman Joghezai and Mr Taimur Joghezai.

The chief martial law administrator and advisers for coordination and planning, political affairs and foreign affairs Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, Mr Maula Baksh Sumro and Mr Agha Shahi; the Pakistan ambassador in Kabul; and the foreign secretary were also present on the occasion.

President on the Afgan side were the minister in charge of foreign affairs, Mr Wahid Abdollah; Afganistan Ambassador Nur Ahmad Etemadi; and the foreign secretary, Mr Abdul Samad Ghaus.

[illegible] Daud attended a luncheon given by the chief martial law administrator. The political leaders also attended the luncheon. The chief martial law administrator also hosted a reception in honor of President Daud in Islamabad this evening, which was attended by heads of foreign missions in Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG CONCLUDES VISIT

For details on the activities and the VNA version of the joint communique issued on the visit to Sri Lanka and India by Vietnamese Premier Phan Van Dong, see the Vietnam section of the 3 March issue of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT CHANGES COUNTRY'S NAME

BK0511132Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP)--The Sri Lanka Government has changed the country's name to "the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka". The country was previously known as "the Republic of Sri Lanka".

The new name was used for the first time in an official public document today when a joint communique was issued following the visit of the Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong.

The republican constitution enacted in 1972 by the government of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike declared Sri Lanka a free, sovereign and independent republic pledged to realise the objectives of a socialist democracy.

The election manifesto of the ruling United National Party (UNP) of President J.R. Jayewardene had promised to implement a democratic socialist programme. The UNP manifesto, issued before last year's general election, said: "We believe that democracy without socialism is a democracy of exploitation and that socialism without democracy is a socialism of oppression".

Legal effect is expected to be given to the country's new name after a 15-member parliamentary committee now considering admendements to the constitution proposes it to parliament for formal approval.

BANDARANAIKE DENIES ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT

BK0609132Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, March 6 (AFP)--Former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike today denied she was planning to overthrow the government by undemocratic means.

Mrs. Bandaranaike was referring to a request by the ruling (UNP) to the government that it should "screen" applicants for jobs recommended by parliamentarians of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) because of alleged declarations made by her and other leading members of her party that they are prepared to organise a movement to overthrow the government other than by the ballot.

The former prime minister issued a statement denying the allegation and claimed that on the contrary it was her party that had consistently defended the parliamentary system whenever assaults were made on it.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said it would be stupid to attempt to use force to overthrow the present government because no other government had incurred the wrath of the people in so short a time as the present one which was swept into power at the general election last July.

She said the trail of broken promises and unfulfilled expectations and other reasons would lead inexorably to only one result when the common people are called upon to decide "on the judgment day". "The SLFP will remain patient till then", she declared.

She said that through the proposed "screening" technique the UNP hoped to subvert political loyalties of people recommended for employment by her parliamentarians.

The former prime minister warned that if the government acceded to the request of the UNP her parliamentarians would refrain from making any recommendations for jobs.

Under a scheme which came into operation from the beginning of this month each member of parliament is entitled to recommend 1,000 unemployed persons from his electorate for employment in the public sector. In the future, non-staff grade vacancies in the public sector will be filled by selecting applicants recommended by parliamentarians.

BRIEFS

CANADIAN AID TO BANGLADESH--The Canadian International Development Agency is to give Bangladesh over 160 million taka as assistance to develop railways in the country under three agreements signed in Dacca on 1 March. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Mar 78 BK]

PRC MACHINERY TO PAKISTAN--Shipment of machinery from China has begun for the glass sheet factory being set up at Naushera at a cost of rupees 45 million. The machinery will be installed by Chinese experts who will also impart on the job training to Pakistanis. A batch of 15 Pakistani technicians will go to China next month for training in the glass industry. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK]

PAKISTAN SALES TO EEC--Pakistan is to sell goods worth about 20 million rupees to the EEC countries. This was stated on 2 March by the leader of the nine-member Pakistan delegation to the EEC countries on his return to Karachi. He said the delegation visited Denmark, Belgium, the FRG, France and Britain and held talks with officials on the question of sale of Pakistani products. These included leather, leather goods, carpets, rugs and sports goods. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK]

INDIAN WHEAT LOAN TO AFGHANISTAN--India has agreed to supply 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan to help tide over the termporary shortage in that country. This will be given as an interest-free commodity loan. An agreement to this effect has been signed in New Delhi. Under the agreement, Afghanistan is to return the wheat 2 years after the delivery. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Mar 78 BK]

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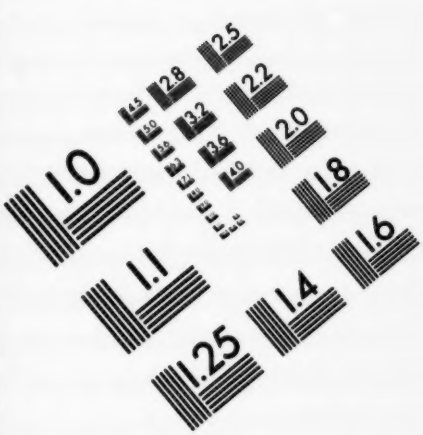

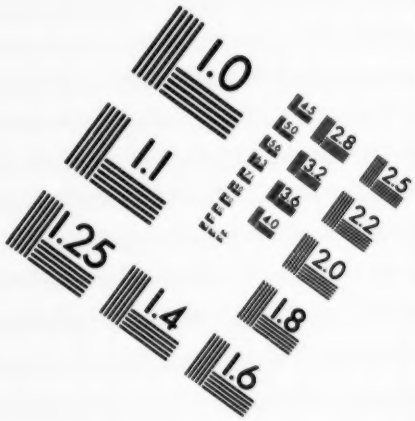

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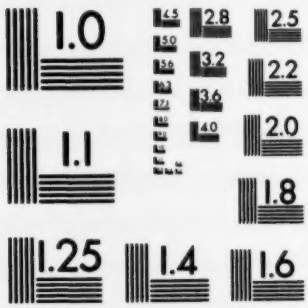

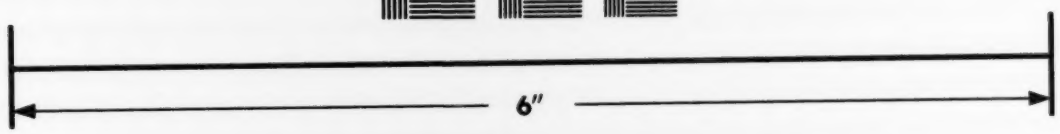

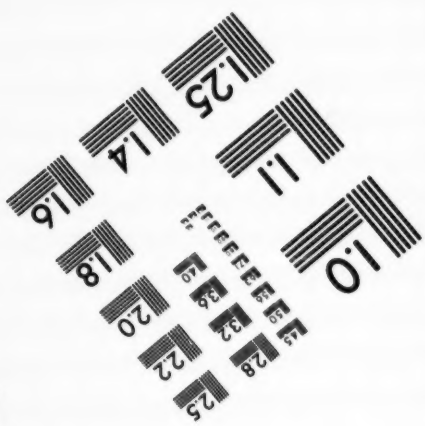

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